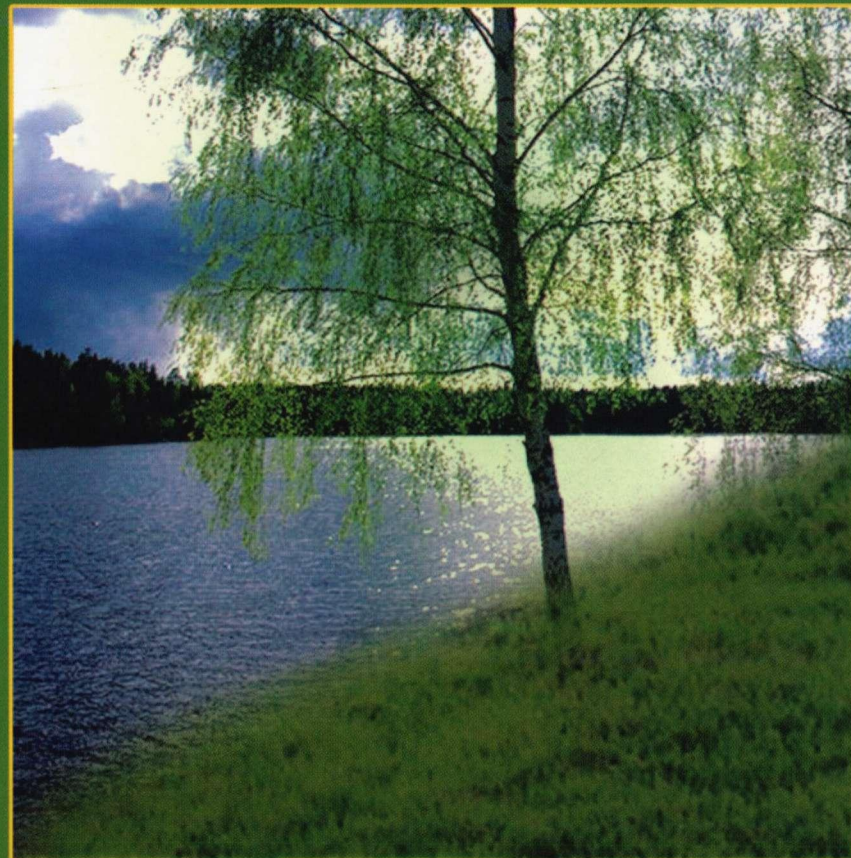




# Social Mission of President's Medal Winning Environmental Pioneers



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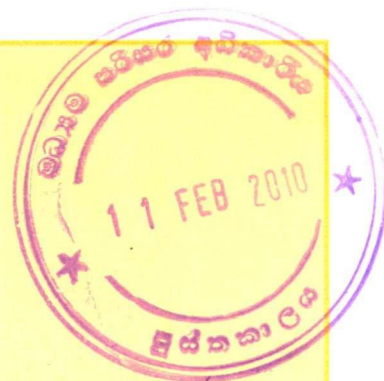


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Central Environmental Authority  
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources





## Central Environmental Authority

### Vision

*A clean and green  
Environment through  
Service excellence*

CEA Library



10181

### Mission Statement

*Flagship of the nation in protecting and  
managing the quality of Environment by  
Promoting public participation,  
law enforcement, advanced  
technological interventions and  
environmental education.*

Environmental Pioneer Theme

*"Environment protects us — Let us protect Environment"*

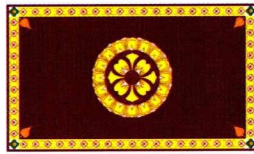
*Let us protect the Environment  
as a legacy of  
future generations*

A publication by the Environment Education and Awareness Division in  
appreciation of the social mission of  
Environmental Pioneers who have won the President's Environmental Medal,  
the highest in the series of Medals of the  
National Environment Pioneer Programme  
aimed at bequeathing to the  
country an environmentally sensitive citizenry.

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Environment Education and Awareness Division  
Central Environmental Authority





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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி  
President of Sri Lanka

### Message

The world today is being challenged by numerous social and environmental problems. Man has to meet diverse requirements such as food, shelter, employment etc. of the ever increasing population. In order to find solutions to these social problems, it has become necessary to launch a variety of large scale development projects for economic development, industrialization and human well-being.

This large scale development process in its wake has given rise to a large number of adverse environmental problems. Global warming caused by climate change, the depletion of the ozone layer; water and air pollution caused by industrialization, soil erosion and floods are just a few such problems.

In the face of the environmental issues such as those mentioned, there are numerous threats to habitations of the entire humanity and animals. We are at a crucial juncture where we all have to join hands to stop this journey towards total destruction with the disintegration of the equilibrium in nature.

It is my belief that we can reap more fruitful results by maintaining a development which the earth can stand and also by undertaking planned and proper management of natural resources.

Against this background, the laudable steps taken by the Central Environmental Authority to implement the Environmental Pioneer Programme in schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education is indeed praiseworthy. It will be a great boost to the drive to create an environment friendly society which necessary for the protection of environment.

It is also important to take this programme within the reach of the public at large through schools. For this purpose, it is necessary to create awareness among community organizations and to build up sound co-ordination. Many are the benefits we can enjoy by taking this programme to the people through the media as well.



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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



The attention paid by the adults to the Environment Pioneer Programme and their appreciation will go a long way to encourage Environmental Pioneers and it is the entire population of our country who will be the ultimate beneficiaries of such an initiative.

Therefore, everyone should rally round the theme "Environment Portects us : Let us protect Enviornment" and it amounts to a blessing to this Environmental Pioneer Programme.

*Mahinda Rajapakse*

**Mahinda Rajapakse**

21st November, 2008.



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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



## Snap-shots from the First National Environmental Pioneer Camp – 1998



Environmental Pioneers taking part in the guard of honour.

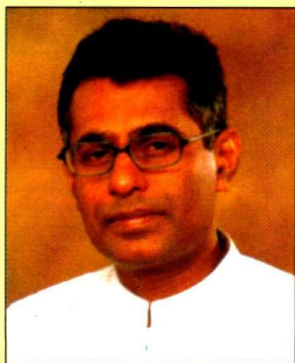


Academics including officials of the CEA in a discussion in an Environmental Pioneer Camp.



Environmental Pioneers on a field investigation





## **Moulding future generation for a clean and healthy Environment**

The bond between environment and man is as strong as the bond between parents and children. This can be very easily understood particularly by a country like ours which is greatly inspired by the Buddhist value system. The reason is the fact that Buddhism has a very high vision of environment.

A best example is a fact mentioned by Arahata Mahinda Thero to King Devanampiya Tissa 2500 years ago. Its meaning is that, this environment which consists of the earth and the trees, belongs equally to the birds of the air, the beasts in the world and all other living beings thereon as well as to man and thus the King is only its "guardian and not the ruler".

This means that we have to protect this environment well during our short span of life and hand it over to our children who will be the future protectors of it.

After the people of the west attempted to subjugate environment in the name of the concept "Development" about 200 years ago, the people of our country too, having filled their heads with such concepts have blindly cultivated the habit of exploiting environment due to competition and greed for material things thereby veering away from the balanced attitudes towards environment which they had firmly established in the past. The ill-effects of that are being felt today not only by the Europeans but also by the entire humanity and even by innocent animals.

What we intend to realise from the National Environmental Pioneer programme is to instil in the minds of children, the importance environment friendly attitudes and behaviour in order to bring about an environmentally sensitive society; to make use of environment with sound management leaving aside the misconception of environmental exploitation as it prevails today. For this, the conservation as well as the restoration of environment is equally important.

The objective of the creation of a National Environmental Pioneer Brigade is to instil in the mind, heart and soul of school children, the importance of environment and sensitiveness to environment so as to improve their attitudes towards environment in order to make them a group of people who are inseparably bound to environment in their inner being itself. It augurs well to see that you are all treading that path as Environmental Pioneers.

Sons and daughters, this great battle of environment protection is for you; for your future; for your children and grand children after you. Our attempt is the true progress of you who grow freely in a clean and healthy environment. Let us work towards that goal. Let us create a green country; a clean environment.

**Patali Champika Ranawaka**

Hon. Minister of  
Environment and Natural Resources.



**School Environmental Pioneers – A helping hand to conserve environment**  
**Ata visi Bodhi Uyana – 2007**







## **The valuable gift bequeathed to environment**

Environmental resources are a noble gift bequeathed to man by nature. Our forefathers have left to us a clean and very beautiful environment. Our environment today is being polluted gradually by forces such as the open economy, urbanization, industrialization etc. Compared with the advanced countries in the world, our contribution to environmental pollution is at an

initial stage. It is the duty and responsibility of all of us to protect for posterity this environment which consists of a diverse climatic pattern, vegetation of medicinal properties, a very high bio-diversity and a rich soil.

For this purpose, it is no easy task to change the attitudes and the way of life of the adults. But it is not so difficult a task to mould the children as harbingers of environmental protection by a change of attitudes. The Environmental Pioneer Programme implemented in schools throughout the country under the aegis of the Central Environmental Authority is an excellent attempt in this regard. I believe that the opportunity open to the Ministry of Education to extend its total patronage to this programme will go a long way to help generate perfect citizens to the nation.

President's Environmental badge holders who achieve their environmental skills under a scheme of five President's Badges are a gift awarded to environment by this programme. Environmental Pioneers who receive President's Environmental Badges will be the guides and decision makers who will provide direction to the future generations for environmental protection. I consider the printing of a booklet on their contribution in this regard as a commendation extended to them for their efforts, dedication and courage displayed on their part to protect environment.

It is my wholehearted wish that these children who have won the President's Badge will be a noble gift to the world presented by the CEA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. D. Susil Premajayantha'.

**A. D. Susil Premajayantha**  
Hon. Minister  
Ministry of Education.



**Environmental Pioneers actively taking part in environment resource management on occasions of cultural festivals.**



**Poson festival at Anuradhapura Sacred site**



**Religious festival at Munneshwaram sacred site.**



**At Thalawila Festival**





## **Environmental Pioneer Children – A positive future investment**

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Different themes come to the fore from different countries from time to time. Environmental protection is such a topic which has gained currency throughout the world in the recent times. With the present day global economic and technological advancement, the need for the protection of environment is being felt acutely. Thus, Environmental protection has become a topic common to all countries, whether big or small, advanced or not.

In this context, the factor Environmental Pioneers becomes very important to us living in Sri Lanka and dealing with environment since their role has been firmly rooted in our society today. Thus the Environmental Pioneer programme has become a unique environmental activity implemented in the school system of the country by the CEA with total patronage from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Environmental Pioneer acts on the principle that the environment around him should be kept in a manner that is conducive to a comfortable living. This unique social character who moves forward through different stages by whetting his environmental activities passes through five stages in the process of badges before finally obtaining the President's Badge.

It is a memorable act to bring out a unique publication on the experiences, challenges and achievements of Environmental Pioneers throughout the country who have displayed their skills by winning President's Environmental Badges. It is because of this reason that such true information on Environmental Pioneers who shape their own life by practising environmentally friendly conducts performing a very effective role in society will be of immense value to those who follow their footsteps.

The Environmental Pioneers who march forward with such experience under the banner of Environmental Pioneer programme are an essential element in society. Their role will be particularly important in the future more than it is today. It is because of the environment friendly code of ethics that the Environmental Pioneers, well trained in the manner of being nourished by environment, become a section of most valuable citizens in society.

I wish all the President's Environmental Badges winners of the Environmental Pioneer Programme and the activists in the CEA who perform a valuable service to the country by conducting the programme all success in their future endeavours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. A. R. D. Jayathilake'.

**M. A. R. D. Jayathilake**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.





**The first Urban Forest Garden initiated by Environmental Pioneer Children in Maligawatte in 1984.**





## **An environment sensitive future generation**

Our forefathers received education through the relationship they had with environment. Their educational tools too were obtained from the environment. The incredible technology used by our forefathers by learning from environment and making use of implements from environment is still an enigma to us. The system of treatment they practised by them using medicinal herbs, leaves, flowers, plants etc. was akin to divine medicines. All these legacies were endowed to us by our forefathers through the knowledge and experience they received through co-existence with environment.

Literacy rate in Sri Lanka is not second to that of the developed countries in the world. It is a matter for pleasure that she has been able to reach that status thanks to free education. But it is not a practical thing to see the present day younger generation moving towards a system of education confined only to book learning. Although knowledge is obtained through book learning, it is through practical activities that an attitudinal change and development of skills can be expected of our children. For that, it is essential to cultivate sensitivity towards environment and education through it. Against this background, the Environmental Pioneer Programme being conducted by the CEA throughout the school system of the country with total patronage of the Ministry of Education can be identified as an appropriate and timely requirement.

The Environmental Pioneer fulfils environmental skills under 05 badges. Out of them, the student who receives the Presidents Badge becomes a sensitive being who has an attitudinal change towards environment and who has the ability to put it into practical use. It can be said that the only solution to environmental problems in future Sri Lanka is the creation of an environmentally sensitive future generation.

The publication of a booklet of this nature on our children who are engaged in such a noble mission can be identified as an appreciation of their service and also as an attempt at directing future school children towards good environmental activities. It is no doubt that Sri Lanka will be the proud owner of a clean environment through the Environmental Pioneer Programme.

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

**M. M. N. D. Bandara**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Education.



## *Environment Pledge*

*Constantly developing the harmony needed to keep  
The trees, rivulets, streams, rivers and oceans of this world  
All fauna living in them the earth which bears them all  
In perfect balance*

*Lighting lamps of knowledge without fear  
To dispel the darkness of ignorance  
Creating forest glades which give cool shade  
Conserving the soil of this earth which bears us all  
Preserving forever the purity of the wind that blows  
The water that quells the thirst*

### *Our Environment*

*to protect  
With cattle and grain which gives long life,  
prosperity and strength  
With life held second to high moral values  
With all effort, with all courage  
By this pledge  
With great determination  
I dedicate myself*





## Forerunners of Tomorrow

Our ancient forefathers lived in a very close relationship with environment and in harmony with it considering the entire environment including the sun and the air, water, earth and forests as their own life. They satisfied their minimum requirements while being light and soft on environment showing immense gratitude to it. The environment too provided their requirements with great pleasure.

With the subsequent forces of industrialization, technological advancement and globalization, man began to transgress his limits in a vicious circle of excessive consumerism thereby breaking that unique co-existence that prevailed with environment. Man began to use resources indiscriminately as if he were devoid of any feeling. Today, we are facing its consequences. As a result of this limitless craving of man, natural resources such as gold, silver, uranium and fossil fuel are being depleted at an alarming rate. Not only that, certain species of animals and plants have become extinct from the face of the earth forever. What is being so destroyed is the heritage of our future generations. Protecting that heritage is the biggest challenge before us.

Against such a background, moulding of an environment friendly generation is a need of our times. In the realization of that goal, the main target is the present generation of our students. It is because this was realized well in advance that the Environmental Pioneer Programme was launched by the CEA way back in 1984 in order to improve the skills of school children by instilling in their minds environmentally friendly attitudes thereby by involving them in active environmental conservation activities as pioneers in that effort. Taking the message of environment to adults through school children, grooming them to a way of life bound by environmental responsibilities from the tender age and the creation of good citizens who protect the environment of the country are the objects of this Programme.

School children, once they become enriched with environmentally friendly attitudes, will in turn be able to inspire the entire population to have similar attitudes. It will no doubt sow the seeds of good attitudes towards love for environment in the entire society.

The role of Environmental Pioneers is a proud one. At the end of such activities such as the identification of environmental problems, finding solutions to them, planning and implementation of projects for that purpose, taking part in environmental activities etc. they become entitled to receive the President's Badge. Those children who become the winners of the President's Badge are the environmentally friendly citizens as well as environment leaders whom the country will come to possess from the Environmental Pioneer Programme.

It is no easy task for the society at large which is divergent and inconsistent, full of unfulfilled needs, to protect and conserve the heritages and resources of the country. A battle, no different from that fought by the security forces to protect the country, being armed with every sort of weapons, has to be mounted today to protect the environment too. It is my fervent hope that children of our country who are well equipped with a lot of knowledge of environment, environmentally friendly attitudes and values will take the lead in the battle for the protection of the resources and heritages of the country in future.

*S. Wimaladharma*

**Prof. Wimaladharma Abeyewickrema**  
Chairman  
Central Environmental Authority



## *Environment Song*

Second is heaven, we think, to our motherland  
Beauty not in heaven, we see upon our golden sand  
Our Environment we protect, develop and we care  
That's the pledge we pledge our land, and bind ourselves firmly there

From cloud encircled mountain heights, often cool rivers flow  
Gardens, glades, forests, orchards full of fruit, great beauty show  
The winds blow pure, cool and soft as they with moist wetness blend  
As long as we protect environment, nature will remain our friend

Why choose desire, greed and craving  
And axe forests down, without them saving  
All will end, the day that Nature chooses to rage its fire  
One who protects the environment, guards the country entire

May all beings on earth have loving kindness in their hearts  
To even trees and leaves, may they that same kindness impart  
May wealth come to all and may, by all the powers,  
The environment be protected with every breath of ours





## **A Group of children with love for the country**

The ancient island of Sri Lanka was a land where human civilization was at its peak from the reigns of ancient Kings such as Bali, Tharu, Ravana etc. We, the heirs to such a rich past, created our own have created our own culture subsequently being influenced and guided by the tenets of Buddhism as introduced to us by Arahat Mahinda Thero.

In the civilization of ancient Sri Lanka, all beings including animals and plants, were all protected.

But subsequently, with the bad influence introduced from other climes, thoughts alien to ours took deep roots in our country. In such servile thoughts, there was no place for animals and plants in the activities of man.

That doctrine, which made nature as enemy of us, taught us that we fill our stomachs by eating it. Gone astray following that doctrine blindly as an animal running after a mirage, today we have come to a point singing the song of death.

Time has come for us to emerge from that darkness to light. It is not becoming of a people like us who are nurtured in a unique way of life as the people of Sri Lanka, to run after such a mirage. It is the time for us to live in harmony and kindness with mother nature. We must tread the path which we followed in the apst. The most suitable persons who should take the lead in fulfilling that duty are the students of today. We know you are a group of citizens who love our land, not being brain washed by alien thoughts. This is an offer of compliments to you from us in the Central Environmental Authority.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Gunasena', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Pasan Gunasena**  
Director General  
Central Environmental Authority



## Provincial Flowers

### Western Province



*White Lotus*

### Northern Province



*Vishnukranthi*

### Central Province



*Maha Rath Mal*

### Uva Province



*Gurulu Raja*

### Southern Province



*Heen Bovitiya*

### Sabaragamuwa Province



*Vesak Flower*

### Eastern Province



*Goda Manel*

### Wayamba Province



*Atteriya*

### North Central Province



*Ehela*





## **Our Congratulations to you who are unequals among equals .....**

We always value gold, silver, pearls and gems as valuable resources. Our children are more valuable to us than gold, silver and gems. That is why special attention is focused on the generation of students which includes pre-school children as well as those in the tertiary level in various institutes. We consider the generation of students as most important because they are naturally the future adults who will take leadership in the task of moulding the future generations.

If we, the guardians of today's students, were to nourish them in food and education alone as today's generation of adults, we cannot identify the future citizens as perfect citizens. This is because we know for sure that a generation of citizens who are not enriched with good attitudes and values will grow to be a section of people who cause numerous adverse impacts on society.

The use of our environmental resources with proper management is a responsibility of any citizen in society in any field. Even if that person is in the public or private sector or is a housewife managing the household affairs, the responsibility of the role of protecting the environment remains the same.

In the attempt made by the CEA through the Environmental Pioneer Programme at creating an environmentally friendly citizenry, it adopts a methodology to ensure the participation of all sections of society such as the parents, children, teachers and officials. The various activities in the Environmental Pioneer Programme as well as the process of badges are made use of in this regard. The background has been created for students who are engaged in various activities, to be awarded Environmental Pioneer Silver, Gold and President's Badges in order to change their thinking and to introduce codes of conduct to be friendly with environment. Directing and guiding of students up to the President's Badge is not a very simple task and it requires a great deal of dedication on the part of the students as well as the adults.

Children can engage themselves in a continuous attempt in the process up to the President's Badge only with the help and guidance of their parents, teachers and officials. It is because of this dedication of the adults and the children who held that responsibility, that as many as 170 children became Presidents' Badge holders by 2008 under the Environmental Pioneer Programme launched in 1984. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude on behalf of the Central Environmental Authority to the teachers, parents and officials who shouldered that responsibility. I regret to say that only a few out of thousands of Environmental Pioneer Badge holders proceed as far as the President's Badge because this guidance and leadership is not given by every teacher equally.

We believe that the students who have become winners of President's Badge reaching a special status among equals will perform an extra special role in the task of environmental protection as well.

**Lalitha Fonseka**  
Deputy Director General  
Environment Education and Awareness  
CEA.





**Award of President's Badge – 2007**



## **National Environmental Pioneer Programme**

People of a country who love its trees and vegetation, the streams and water ways and the animal life are a blessing to its environment and nature. A country can reach this stage by guiding its people with the involvement of its children in the task of environmental protection by explaining the value of environmental resources to them with long term vision in mind. It is because of the fact that they are the future rulers as well as the labour force in the country.

All the resources bestowed to humanity by mother nature are meant for the maintenance of environmental balance for the well-being of the global population and thus for the future generations. Conservation of resources is the major challenge faced by us today in realizing the targets of development. A way of life which the earth can bear should not be delayed any further. Against this backdrop, the moulding of an environmentally friendly people is a need of the hour. In realizing this objective, the main target should be the student population.

The Environmental Pioneer programme launched by the CEA with this objective in mind will no doubt be helpful in making the future generation an environmentally friendly people. The Environmental Pioneer Programme which had a humble beginning way back in 1984 in Maligawatte with a group of just 60 children has grown today into a massive programme with a membership of 140,500 students, and 12,280 teachers in 6140 schools in the country including the North and the East, with total patronage of the Ministry of Education, during the past two and a half decades.

Instructions were given to those Environmental Pioneer students by the CEA on environmental activities to be carried out at school level and thus the activities that should be performed by them were arranged properly since 1992. Environmental activities to be carried out by Environmental Pioneers every year were arranged in a manner that sharpens the understanding and attitudes of the students. Accordingly, a Teacher's Guide Book was printed in 1992 for the first time. An Environment song and an oath as well as a uniform were introduced and cassettes / CDs containing the song and the oath were issued to each and every school.

The code of conduct and the activities in the process of Badges in the Environmental Pioneer programme which was launched with the object of socialising a true environment lover under the theme "Environment protects us : Let us protect environment" are directly linked to the protection of environment. With the introduction of Environment. Children's Clubs in 2001, the Environmental Pioneer programme was extended to the primary sector as well. Accordingly, a school child is given the opportunity to win three badges as "Thurulatha", "Vihanga" and "Soba" in the primary section by taking part in the Badge process during his school days and five badges as Environmental Pioneer, Green, Silver, Gold and President's Badges in the secondary section.



One Environmental Pioneer group consists of 25 students and five are selected out of them as group leaders. The uniform of these Environmental Pioneer groups can be prepared in a simple and easy manner in white. A green cap forms part of that uniform and once the first badge is won, it is given to a student along with a one-time Note Books by the CEA.

Two teachers are selected as teachers in charge of the Environment Pioneer Groups at the discretion of the Principal and the training of those teachers in charge of the Environmental Pioneer Groups is conducted by the CEA. Co-ordination of all activities with the CEA is done annually by District and Divisional Environmental Pioneer Commissioners. For this purpose, a District Commissioner is appointed for each District and a Zonal Commissioner for each Educational Zone, in the island, out of the teachers selected. In 1997 Environmental Officers were appointed at Divisional Secretariat Division level and the Divisional Environmental Officer is assigned a special responsibility in the implementation of the programme. Thus, all activities relating to the Environmental Pioneer Programme are carried out under the supervision of Divisional Environmental Officers.

The CEA, having realized that children should be trained from the pre-school stage itself if this programme is to be further strengthened, has taken steps to supply a Teachers' Hand Book for pre-school teachers and to conduct workshops to provide training to teachers. As the final link in the entire process of these programmes, steps were taken to form youth clubs at divisional level in order to ensure the active participation of youth who enter society after completing their schooling.

The CEA extends patronage and guidance in numerous ways to make this programme a success and by now the co-operation and attention of the Ministry of Education is forthcoming in full measures to it. As a result, steps have also been taken by the Ministry of Education to appoint Co-ordinating Officers at Regional and Educational zonal levels for co-ordination of programme activities.

Since 1998, the conduct of National Jamborees was commenced so as to work in co-operation with the Environmental Pioneers scattered throughout the country and also to share experiences among them. Up to now, seven National Camps have been held. Since only winners of silver, gold at President's badges are given the opportunity to attend a National Jamboree, regional level Jamborees are held for Pioneer and green badge holder students.

There are numerous activities connected to the Environmental Pioneer Programme and TV and radio programmes are prominent among them. Selection of three schools with the best healthy environment in each district of the island and offering prizes to them is done by the "Suvasara Thaksalawa" programme. In addition to that, awareness programmes are conducted to coincide with cultural days in order to convey the message of environment to society by means of quiz competitions, environment friendly projects etc. through Environmental Pioneers. Festive occasions such as the Kandy Esala Perahera, Kataragama Esala Festival, Poson Festival etc. where people gather in large numbers are used for this purpose. Programmes to mark the World Environment Day, tree planting days, District News Letters containing the activities of Environmental Pioneers and the quarterly publication containing environmental information are some of the other activities carried out in this regard.



Circular No. 2008/11 dated 27.03.2008 was issued by the Ministry of Education amending Circular No. 2003/37 on the Environmental Pioneer Programme. According to that circular, opportunities are given to evaluate the progress of the Environmental Pioneer programme in the school evaluation activities at divisional, zonal and provincial levels; to implement all environmental activities under the Environmental Pioneer Programmes and under the leadership of Environmental Pioneers by Non Governmental institutes; to conduct school environmental programmes under the Environmental Pioneer Programme and when non governmental institutes obtain the participation of Environmental Pioneers, such institutes to obtain prior approval of the CEA through the school Principals. The presence of such a trend in the field of education can be regarded as a unique achievement of the Environmental Pioneer programme.

The President's Badge which is the highest in the series of Environment Badges presented by H.E. the President is the culmination of the process. Among the special activities to be performed by Pioneers to win this badge are the implementation of a project under his / her leadership to find a solution to an environmental problem within a period of one year and the submission of a project proposal to solve an environmental problem. In view of the facts mentioned above, steps were taken to bring out this booklet with the objective of appreciating the unique role played by them by providing information on the projects implemented and proposed in order to introduce them to society at large through the presentation of their special environmental activities. It is a task for you all to have the maximum use of these children who are a unique group of their own.

### **Environmental Pioneer National Steering Committee**

#### **Composition**

- Secretaries to the Ministry of Environment and
- Natural Resources and the Ministry of Education } Co-chairman
- A representative of the Treasury
- Director General of the CEA
- Deputy Director General of the CEA  
(Env. Education and Awareness)
- An academic in the subject of Environment
- Two Provincial Directors of Education to represent Provincial  
Director of Education
- Two Zonal Directors of Education to represent Zonal  
Directors of Education
- Two selected Environmental Pioneer Commissioners to represent  
Environmental Pioneer Commissioners.



## Environmental Badges presented in appreciation of Students' Environmental knowledge and Skills.

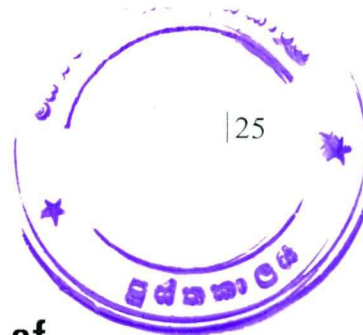
ECO Clubs - Primary Programme of Environmental Pioneer programme



## Environmental Pioneer Programme







## **Activities to be completed for the award of President's Badge**

### **1. Active participation in Environmental Conservation Activities**

It is possible to participate actively in environmental activities either by establishing an environmental organization with the participation of the people in the area or in collaboration with an accepted environmental organization which exists already.

Pioneers can select one of the above two methods depending on the nature of resources available in schools and in the areas where they live. When there is no such NGO in operation in one's area, an organization can be started and implemented with the participation of surrounding schools / neighbouring people, at school or village / divisional / district level. Activities such as taking steps to create awareness among the people of the area about environment, launching of environmental conservation activities with the active participation of the members of the organization and the people of the area and co-ordination with other institutes in conducting the programmes are very important in this regard.

### **2. Ownership of an Environment Project**

Under this, a small scale Environment Project should be implemented. It is compulsory that it should be one's own creation – based on one's knowledge, experience and identified environmental problems. It should particularly be a project launched as a solution to an environmental problem that has been experienced in the area. In the examination, attention will be paid to the success of the project which should be in operation for at least one year.

The progress of the project from beginning to end should be clearly recorded in a note book. The project should be of a sufficiently quantitative and qualitative value to be awarded the President's Medal.

### **3. Liaison with State institutes dealing with environmental matters.**

By this, it is meant to engage in environmental activities with institutions dealing with environmental matters such as the Forest Conservation Department., Coast Conservation Department, Department of Wild Life Conservation etc. It is necessary to submit documents supporting the activities performed in association with such bodies in order to confirm such dealings with them.



#### **4. Knowledge of the National Environment Act and Environmental Standards**

It is necessary to have an understanding of the existing legal and institutional structures relating to environmental conservation, decentralization of powers of the National Environment Act, other government and non-governmental organizations dealing with environmental conservation, environment protection licensing system, environmental impact evaluation process etc. A general knowledge too is expected of the laws and regulations, standards, gazette notification etc. issued in respect of minimizing environmental pollution.

#### **5. Submission of an Environmental Project Proposal**

It should be a project proposal prepared by oneself under the elements which should be included in a project and which could be practically feasible. Attention should also be paid to the use of resources available in the area and it should be a project proposed submitted as a solution to an environmental problem prevailing in the area. In the planning process, attention should be paid to securing public participation for the project. The total expenditure of the Project should not exceed Rs. 2 lakhs. Environmental benefits of the Project should be clearly stated.

#### **6. Conducting the examination**

After the above activities are completed by the students, a request for the examination should be made to the CEA by the teacher in charge of the Pioneer group, with a copy to the Environmental Pioneer Commissioner. The calling of the Board of Examiners will be done by the CEA. The Board will consist of the following representatives:

1. An Additional Secretary of the Presidential Secretariat
2. District Secretary of the District concerned
3. Provincial Director of Education of the Province concerned
4. Director General or the Deputy Director General (Environment Education and Awareness) of the CEA.

## Circular No. 2003/37 providing instructions relating to the implementation of the Environmental Pioneer Programme within the school system

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Minister } 2784832  
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සекретарь  
Secretary } 2784812

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அலுவலகம்  
Office } 2785141-50  
Fax: 2784846

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திகதி  
Date } 2008. 03. 17

(Translation)

Circular No. : 2008/11

To :

All Provincial Secretaries of Education  
All Provincial Directors of Education  
All Zonal Directors of Education  
All Principals of schools

### Implementation of Environmental Pioneer Programme within the School system

The following amendments are made to Circular No. 2003/37 dated 29.12.2003 relating to the Environmental Pioneer Programme:-

02. Paragraph 5 of Circular No. 2003/37 is amended as follows :

#### Appointment of Provincial / Zonal / Divisional Co-ordinating Officers

A suitable staff officer of the province who is interested in environmental programmes being nominated by the Provincial Director of Education; and a staff officer of the zone being nominated by the Zonal Director of Education for co-ordination activities of the Environmental Pioneer Programme; a suitable teacher instructor being nominated by the Divisional Director of Education for divisional co-ordinating activities, should be informed to the Director General of the CEA with a copy to the Secretary, Ministry of Education. Those officers should carry out co-ordinating activities relating to the progress of the Pioneer groups and should function as members of the panels of judges.

03. Paragraph 7.1 shall be amended as follows :

7.1 Environmental Pioneer Commissioners / teachers are entitled to 12 days' leave per year for activities of the panel of judges in respect of the process of environmental medals and to duty leave as required for the process relating to the environmental medals as recommended by the principal and approved by the Zonal / Provincial Director of Education on confirmation of the necessity of such functions.

04. The following matters not included in Circular No. 2003/97 shall be included as No. 9 and 10 thereof:

#### 9. School Evaluation Process

In all school evaluation processes which are conducted at Divisional, Zonal and Provincial levels also, the progress of the Environmental Pioneer Programme shall be evaluated.

#### 10. Conduct of Environmental Programmes under the leadership of Environmental Pioneers

School Environmental Programmes shall be conducted under the School Environmental Pioneer Programme. When the assistance of Environmental Pioneer students is obtained by non-governmental institutes for this purpose, steps should be taken to obtain prior approval of the CEA through the principal and copies of the letter concerned should be forwarded to the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Office of the CEA.

M.M.N.D. Bandara  
Secretary  
Ministry of Education

1. Secretary – Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
2. Chairman – Central Environmental Authority  
Ministry of Human Resources Development



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(Minister) } 784807  
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සෙක්‍රටරි (Secretary) } 784811

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අංක (Office) } 785141-50  
Fax: 784846

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Ministry of Human Resources Development,  
Education & Cultural Affairs

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(Translation)

All Provincial Secretaries of Education  
All Provincial Directors of Education  
All Zonal Directors of Education  
All Divisional Directors  
All Principals and all Heads of Pirivenas

### Circular providing instructions relating to the implementation of the Environmental Pioneer Programme within the School system

With the objective of bringing about a section of environmentally sensitive citizens in society in the future, a programme named Environmental Pioneer was launched by the Central Environmental Authority in 1984 under the theme "Environment Protects us: Let us protect Environment" in order to enhance the environmental knowledge, attitudes and skills of school children. In 2002, a programme named Primary Environment Clubs was combined with this programme.

Accordingly, at present,-

The Environment Clubs Programme from Grade 1 to Grade 5 and  
Environment Pioneer Programme from Grade 6 to Grade 13 are in operation within the school system.

The Environmental Pioneer Programme consists of various practical activities such as the process of medals, environment jumborees, trainings in environment matters, school environmental projects, cultural programmes relating to environment, explorations etc.

Your attention is drawn to the following instructions for the systematic implementation of this programme in the school system:

1. Implementation of the Environmental Pioneer Programme in the School system.

Since the Environmental Pioneer Programme implemented at present in the School system under the guidance of the CEA, aimed at the secondary level students is a supplementary programme implemented with total approval of the Ministry of Education, it should be extended full co-operation.

2. Selection of teachers in charge of the Environmental Pioneer Programme

Two teachers who love environment and who are capable of working voluntarily with commitment should be selected by the principal and the Zonal Director of Educational the CEA should be kept informed of such selection.

These teachers should direct the activities of the pioneer programme in schools by selecting suitable students as Pioneers and appointing group leaders from among them and implement the programme through them uninterruptedly.

3. Selection of Students

This Programme should be started from Grade 6 every year and groups formed out of selected students. Groups should be formed every year continuously. Thus, this programme should be implemented in every Grade from Grade 6 onwards.

4. Involvement of teachers in Environmental Pioneer Training Programmes.

4.1 Training of teachers

Environmental Pioneer Teaching Programmes are being conducted annually at district level by the CEA and teacher in charge of Environmental Pioneer work nominated by the principal should participate in this training.

4.2 Training of Student Group Leaders

When students attend Environmental Pioneer Student Leader's training programmes conducted at Divisional level by the CEA, the approval of the Principal should be obtained and the students should participate in the training with the teacher in charge of Environmental Pioneer Groups.

5. Appointment of a Co-ordinating Officer

An Officer attached to the Zonal Education Office should be nominated for this purpose by the Zonal Director of Education. The said Officer should participate representing the Ministry of Education as a member of the panel of judges evaluating the co-ordinating activities relating to the welfare of Pioneer Groups.

6. School Environmental Projects and Programmes

Prior notice, regarding the school which is provided financial assistance by the CEA, should be given by the said school to the Director of National Schools in case of a National School and to the Provincial Director of Education in case of a Provincial School. If the Divisional Environmental Officer of the CEA is sent to the school to investigate progress of such programmes, a prior approval in writing should be obtained from the Provincial Director of Education. The Principal should give permission to such officers who come with prior approval, to enter the school.

7. Approval of duty leave for officers in charge of Pioneer Groups.

7.1 The teachers concerned may obtain one day's duty leave per month for work of the panel of judges in relation to the process of medals, recommended by the principal and subject to the approval of the Zonal Director of Education.

7.2 When teachers are called upon by the CEA to attend training programmes, steps should be taken to grant one day's duty leave in one school term.

8. Leaving the school for educational activities in environmental explorations,

When students of Environmental Pioneer groups take part in environmental exploration activities, the teacher concerned should obtain written approval from the principal. The Zonal Director of Education should be informed of the places where students are taken for explorations, with the approval of the principal. Whenever possible, the participation of the Divisional Environmental Officer too should be ensured when such visits are undertaken.

V. K. Nanayakkara  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Human Resources Development,  
Education and Cultural Affairs.

Copies to : (1) Secretary - Ministry of School Education  
(2) Secretary - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources  
(3) Chairman, CEA.



## **Academics' Views on Environmental Pioneer Programme**



## **Environmental Pioneer Programme**

### **A Valuable Mission in Collective Environmental Conservation**

The Environmental Pioneer Programme implemented islandwide successfully and uninterrupted by the CEA for the last 24 years with total contribution of the Ministry of Education and the district and divisional environmental mechanism is a good example to be followed by those who languish behind simply seeking non-existent remedies for problems.

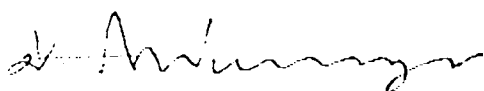
The year 1984 stands out prominently in my mind as a landmark year in the environmental management process in the 1980's when I was the founder Chairman of the CEA. I am happy that this programme which was started as an Environmental Pioneer Group consisting of sixty school children who lived in the Maligawatta Housing scheme at that time has today expanded covering six thousand two hundred schools in Sri Lanka irrespective of race, religious, class and regional differences with more than a million Environmental Pioneers being involved in the process.

Among the innovative creations that epitomize the dignity of our ancient Sinhalese civilization, those of the sluice gate, the moonstone and the medicinal trough occupy a prime of place. The Environmental Pioneer Programme too is such an innovation of rare breed. We were motivated by several reasons to plan and launch it and guiding the future generation towards environmental conservation and management and thereby setting an example to the older generation who are often given to the habit of polluting environment in numerous ways was the main objective.

Further, it was our firm conviction that a complete human being cannot be brought about by simply forcing knowledge in a classroom. The child which grows up in isolation away from the outside world, the natural environment and society at large can be equalled to a robot. Therefore, this programme was designed in order to attract school children to the process of environment protection collectively according to their consciousness by enabling them to be involved in environmental matters taking part in external activities and tending the environment.

In the planning of this programme, the training, knowledge and discipline I had had as a cadet myself during my school days and above all the pleasure derived from it helped us a great deal. I also drew heavily on the very popular and islandwide voluntary radio programme Young Farmers Club (Tharuna Govi Samaja) which was broadcast during the period I functioned as the Director, National Service of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. The reason was because that radio programme was greatly instrumental in enhancing the creative skills and self confidence of the youths of the day. It is very fortunate that the Environmental Pioneer Programme, which has reached the age of adolescence has not only been able to realize all those objectives but also to exceed the expectations.

There is no doubt that a new environment friendly generation will be borne in future through an islandwide and friendly programme of this nature which is closer to the hearts of our children. Finally, the tribute of the nation should necessarily be paid to all those in and outside of the CEA who extend a helping hand to this programme, to Mrs. Lalitha Fonseka, the Deputy Director General who have been guiding this programme for the last 24 years and also to all Environmental Pioneers, the teachers and parents who are involved in it.



**K. H. J. Wijayadasa**  
Founder Chairman of CEA



## **A worthy example from Environmental Pioneer Children in Environment Protection**

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The formation of an Environmental Pioneer Corps by the CEA can be considered as an innovative and a far sighted step taken by it during its formative years. The first Environmental Pioneer Group was formed in early 1984 with the participation of sixty school children aged 12-14 years who lived in the Maligawatta Housing Scheme where the office of the Authority was housed at that time.

On this occasion, I remember the tremendous efforts made by the staff of the Authority from the time of planning on matters such as the selection of school children, making the parents aware of the benefits of the programme, designing an emblem, a cap and record books for the students pioneers, making them aware of their duties and responsibilities, obtaining the assistance of principals and teachers in providing training to them etc. It is not necessary to elaborate repeatedly that creating awareness among the people who lived in the largest urban settlement of the country and obtaining their co-operation was an extremely difficult task.

The first task performed by the Pioneers was the planting of trees in the Maligawatta Housing Scheme premises itself. A different kind of a plant each was distributed among each and every pioneer and everyone was entrusted with the task of protecting and nursing it. On this historic occasion, the first Urban Forest grove was created with the planting of 60 plants of the Environmental Pioneers and the planting of the first tree by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Every pioneer looked after the tree planted by him / her till it grew well and subsequently it became an example of environmental responsibility and sensitivity to those Environmental Pioneers who joined the Programme thereafter. This urban forest grove initiated by the CEA at a time when there was not much understanding about the improvement of an urban environment, was a step of very great significance.

This programme which was implemented after selecting 2 schools each from every district following the establishment of the Environmental Pioneer Corps in 1984 is in operation today in a large number of schools throughout the country. The initial objective of launching a programme of action for sensitization of Sri Lanka's school children about environment has been successfully realized through this programme. I take this opportunity to thank the CEA for the achievements it has realized both in laying the foundation for sensitizing the public about the protecting and managing of environment based on the experience of the Maligawatta Environmental Pioneer founder group and in imparting to thousands of youth in the younger generation, a wide knowledge of environment.



**W. D. Ailapperuma**  
First Director General of the CEA

## **Evergreen Environmental Pioneers in a Complex Society**

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Today the entire people on plant earth are suffering for the destructive development activities of the older people. Besides them, there are many more who suffer the consequences of certain acts committed in the name of conservation too. Some of the performances centred round environmentally friendly actions too have not yielded the necessary positive results in required measures.

Although the concept of "sustainable development" was given the initiative through the Earth Summit in 1992 to replace the practice of destructive development, the process of sustainable development is still confined to mere words. The wave of environmental education which began in the 1960s too has not helped the required ideological change to take roots.

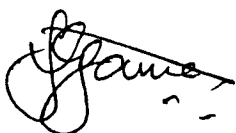
We become "conditioned" individuals based on the experiences we become used to and gather from childhood. When adulthood is reached, the manner of using one's surrounding environment and the natural environment is determined to a large extent by the experiences and the habits formed in the mind during the age of youth.

Therefore, it is possible to make use of these suitable experiences and habits in order to become an environment friendly individual.

The place where this can be given in today's society should necessarily be the school where the most part of one's life is spent. Thus, it is essential to provide future leadership by the Environmental Pioneer Programme which has evolved contemporaneously against that backdrop, to the decision makers, consumers and the children who dream of becoming future citizens.

Bringing out an environmentally friendly individual through different objectives in school should necessarily be a prominent matter. It is certain that a path for this will be created through the Environmental Pioneer Programme and there is no doubt that an environmentally friendly citizenry will be brought about through the activities of teachers who are dedicated to this task and through institutional support extended by institutes such as the CEA, the Ministry etc.

Evergreen Environmental Pioneers are essential in a complex society. Let the grounding received from school be a foundation for this !



**Prof. Sarath Kotagama**  
Professor of Ecology



## **To a better tomorrow from a good beginning**

It gives me great pleasure to write a message on behalf of the Environmental Pioneer Programme implemented by the CEA in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

As an educationist and an ecologist, I believe that the future of our environment from the village to the entire world depends on our collective responsibility, as those who use environment for our numerous requirements.

There is no doubt that school children who are the future leaders can make a sound contribution to environmental management today and tomorrow.

The Environmental Pioneer Programme launched as a Pilot Project by the CEA in 1984 has today expanded to 6200 schools in our beautiful island. The aim of this programme whose simple yet powerful theme is "Environment Protects us; Let us Protect Environment", is to train and engage students as Chief Messengers in the task of environmental protection and conservation.

This programme has been able to instil the necessary knowledge, technical abilities and good attitudes required for the creation of a better bio-friendly environment in the minds of school children. The object of the Environmental Pioneer Programme is the creation of a group of citizens who are capable of making environmentally important decisions required for the creation of a better environment and thus a better life for all.

As revealed in an independent impact evaluation conducted about the Environmental Pioneer Programme in 2005, it is the only programme of that kind that is available today in the world and the commitment of the CEA and schools for its success is extremely high.

In environmental conservation, the modern and practical activities of environment medal holders are excellent. While the unwavering efforts and determination of those who have been clever enough to obtain the President's Medal is very valuable and deserves commendation, it is necessary that they apply their talents and creativity to the task of building a sustainable society.

The above independent evaluation which says that the CEA and the Ministry of Education can be justifiably happy about the success of the Environmental Pioneer Programme has further put forward a series of proposals to make the Environmental Pioneer Programme more active and delicate. Under the new direction of the Ministry of Environment and the CEA, the people of this country are dreaming of a greener society today. The Environmental Pioneer programme can contribute to realize this broad objective in a small way.

The best way that the winners of medals can be honoured is to make use of their creative abilities and strengths to the national task of making our nation a place where all living beings can live happily. May a life of fortune be the legacy of medal holders !



**Prof. Shantha Hennayake**  
Senior Lecturer  
University of Peradeniya.

## **Let us ensure safety of earth for posterity**

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The School Environmental Programme was launched by the CEA primarily to enhance the environmental knowledge of children from tender age and to bequeath a future generation which is conscious of and attached to environment and loves it.

When the activities of this programme are looked at, it becomes very clear that it has been an important step taken to enhance the knowledge of environmental conservation, instil environment friendly attitudes and build up skills in environmental conservation.

At the same time, I am extremely happy for this opportunity to share the experience of the projects implemented by the Presidents' medal holders as well as the challenges faced by them. This will be a great help to all Environmental Pioneers and school children alike.

I wish the Environmental Pioneer Programme the ability to seek innovative approaches to undertake the new programmes and to bring about a complete human being with a deep sense of the environment, both inwardly and outwardly.



**Malini M. Premaratne**  
District Secretary  
Ratnapura Administrative District



## **Environmental Pioneer Programme, the foundation for the creation of an environmentally friendly citizen**

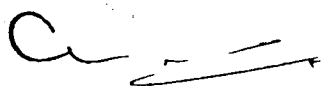
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Although it is a matter for pride for us that the Hambantota District is blessed with a number of National Parks rich in bio-diversity and a lot of environmentally sensitive areas, yet it is disturbing to see some environmental problems emanating with the increasing population. Among them, problems such as deforestation, erosion of river banks caused by sand mining, haphazard disposal of waste etc. have reached alarming proportions which can no longer be ignored.

It is the responsibility of the present day generation to pay attention to proper environment management in order to change this situation. For this, it is the need of the hour to direct the student population who are to shoulder the future development of environment, in an eco-friendly way to take up that onerous task.

The Environmental Pioneer Programme implemented by the CEA islandwide will help greatly to win that challenge. In the role played by the Environmental Pioneers, the identification of environmental problems, finding solutions to them and designing and implementing projects for such purposes help them a great deal to enhance their practical knowledge and skills. Once the student duly completes this task and becomes qualified to be a winner of President's Medal which is the highest medal in this programme, he becomes an environmentally friendly citizen engaged in protecting the environment of the country.

I believe that realizing that object to the maximum in this district which has been named as an environmentally friendly model district by this programme which brings about such citizens, will be a very easy task. As such, there are 33 President's Medal winners already in the Hambantota District and I wish every success to the Environmental Pioneer Groups in the entire country to achieve that ability.



**R.M.D.B. Meegasmulla**  
District Secretary,  
Hambantota.

## **An Environmentally Sensitive Future Generation through the Environmental Pioneer Programme.**

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Nature has bestowed numerous resources on us. Not only what we produce, but also the entire resources around us are those inherited by us from nature.

It is a duty and responsibility of our generation as well as the future generations to protect everything inherited by us in the natural environment. The Environmental Pioneer programme which is being implemented jointly by the CEA and the Ministry of Education in order to perform this responsibility is a programme that has earned our appreciation as educational authorities. Today this programme is being conducted very successfully in many schools in the Southern Province.

As the pioneer in education in the Southern Province, I am extremely happy to send this message on this occasion when a booklet is being brought out about the mission of little Environmental Pioneers who are qualified to receive the President's Medal of the Programme which is the fifth and the highest medal in the series.

Environment is the most valuable legacy bequeathed by nature to bring out a healthy nation. The environment around all living beings always provides the necessary conditions for them to live a healthy life and ultimately to depart peacefully. It is the plants that purify the atmosphere around us.

Plants and other vegetations are the wonderful creations of mother nature. Who else can do that noble task other than plants ? It is the plants and vegetation around us that provide the life giving oxygen to all living beings and help maintain the atmospheric balance ever since the earth was born.

The economic, social and cultural problems we have to face today have all stemmed from this environmental degradation. Scientist have sounded alarm that if this damage continues unabated, the earth will become a place which is unsuitable for living for all living beings including man , in about a 200 years' time.

To face all these challenges, we have to conserve environment. It is our duty to use existing resources in a sustainable manner for use by future generations as well. Today's children are the future heirs to the country. It is no secret that the Environmental Pioneer Programme provides them a great help to develop environmentally friendly feelings in them. I am especially thankful to the CEA for its worthy attempt at providing a novel experience to the school system through this programme in order to bring about an environmentally sensitive future generation.

Finally, I wish more strengths to this programme to continue that task further. Let a nature loving future generation be the final outcome of it !



**N. J. Karunadasa**  
Southern Province Director of Education.



## School Environment Projects implemented by Environmental Pioneers



Recycling of paper



Bio-gas generator

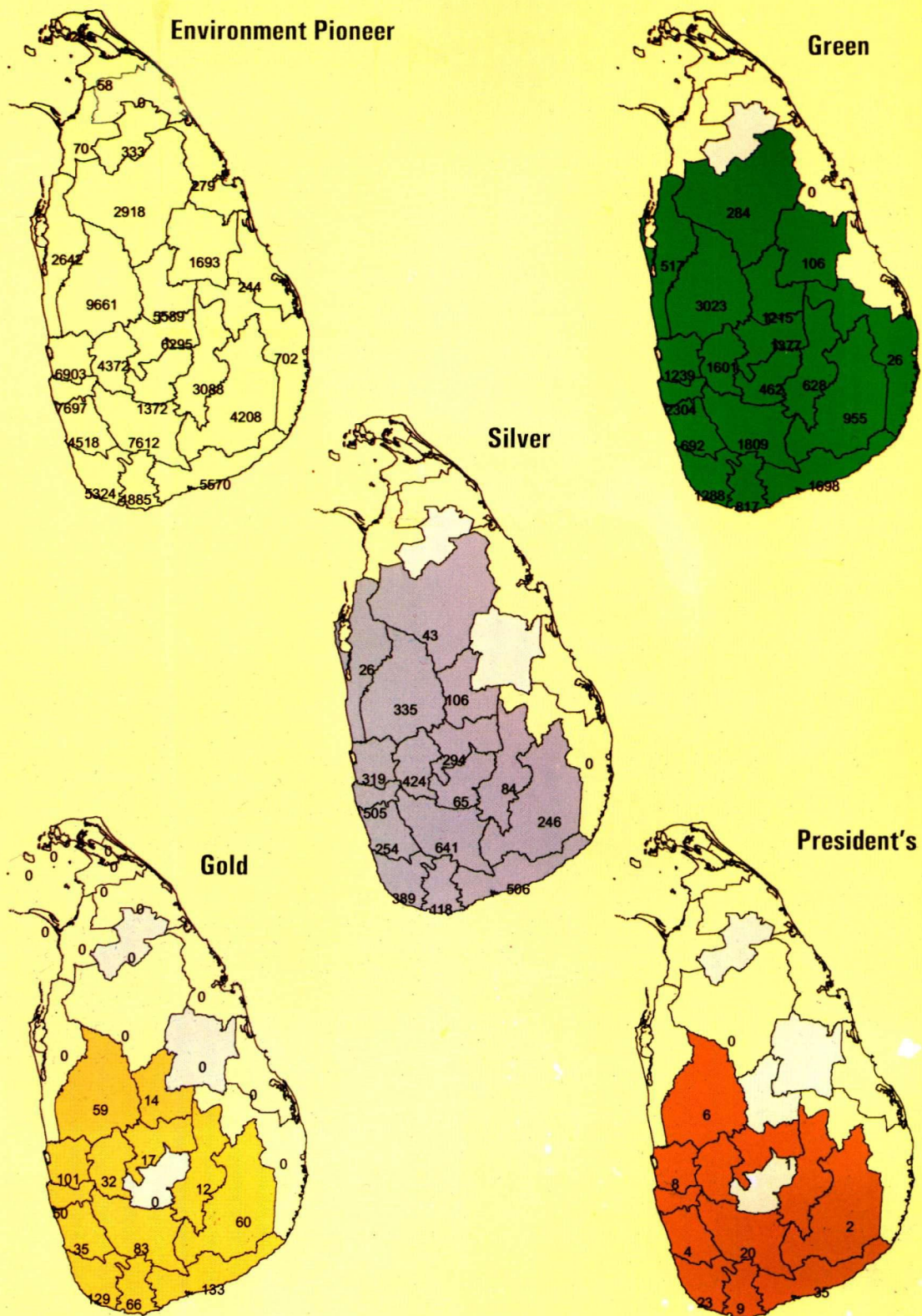


Tree planting in a wet land system.



## Islandwide implementation of the award of Environmental Pioneer Badges in 2008

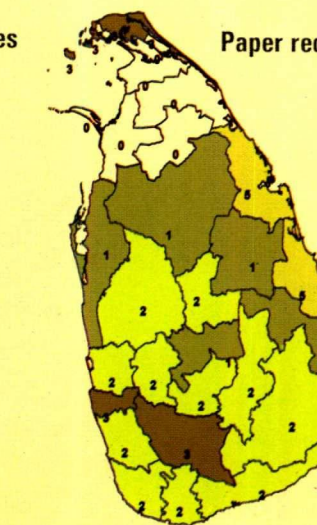
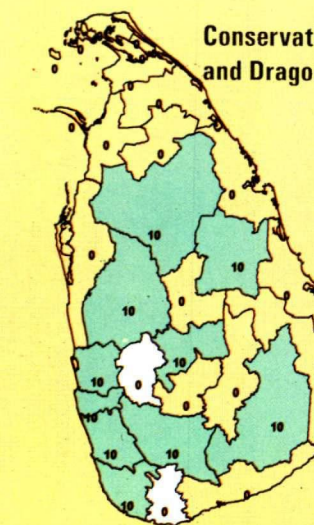
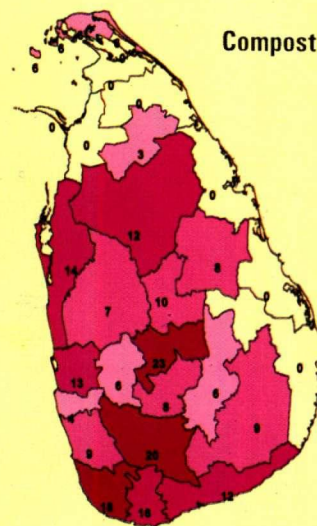
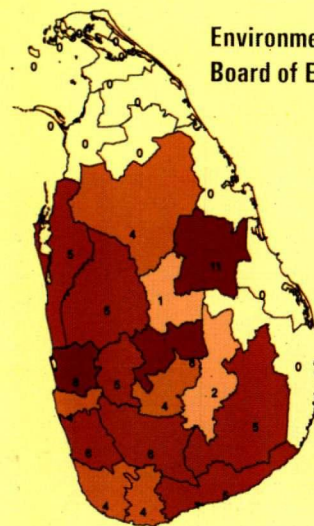
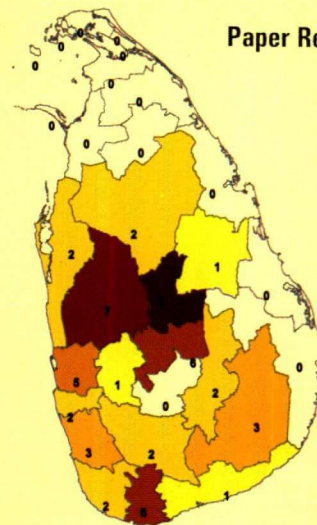
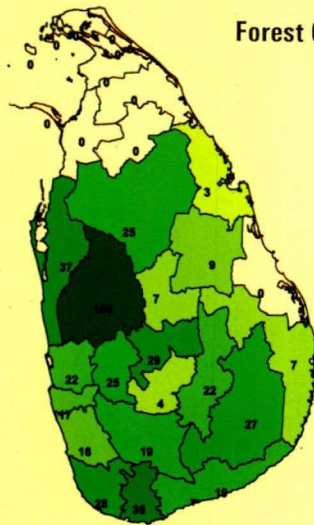
Map 1.





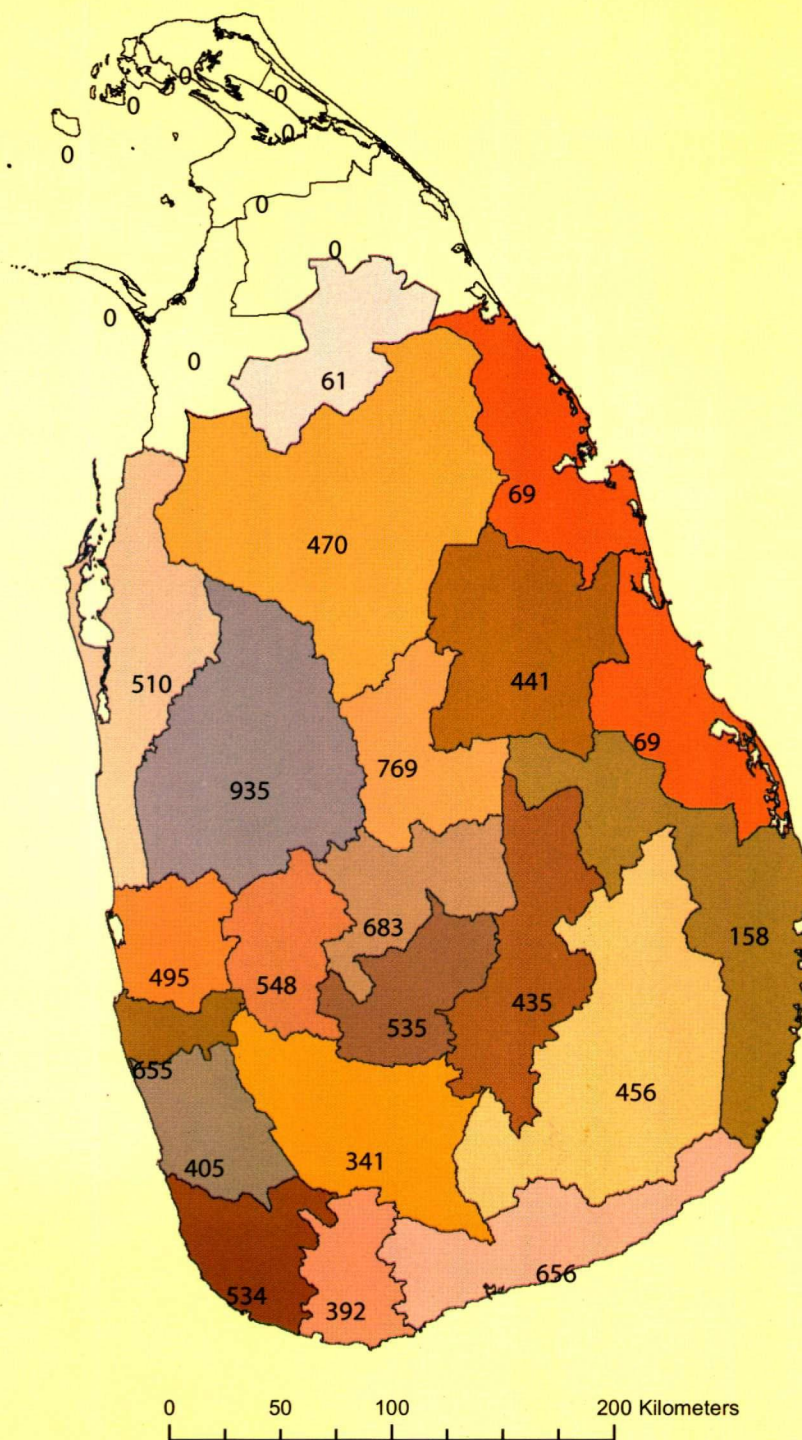
## Environmental Projects implemented at School Level

Map 2



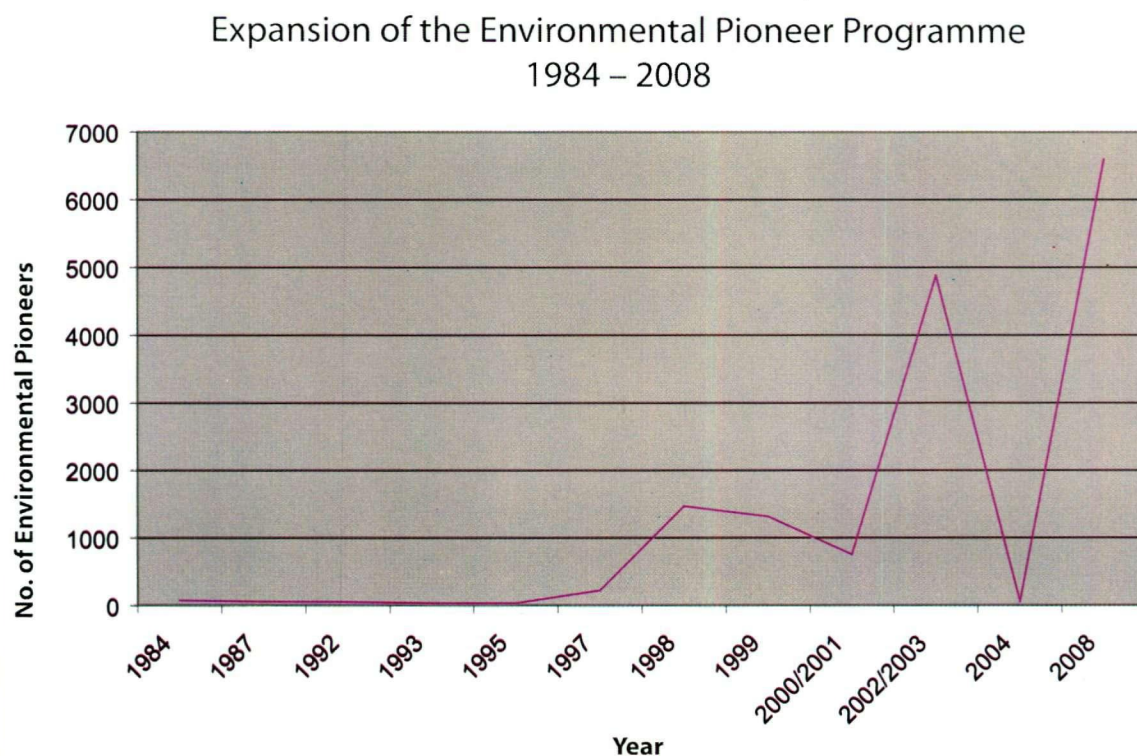
## Teacher Training Programme

Map 03





## Expansion of the Environmental Pioneer Programme 1984 – 2008



## **Challenges and obstacles faced by President's Medal holders and their experiences and achievements.**

### **Challengers**

In the inquiry made into the challenges, obstacles, experiences and achievements of the President's medal winners, it was found that there are common as well as area specific matters to be considered.

The biggest challenge the Environmental Pioneers had to face at the initial state after being a Pioneer was the task of changing the general attitude prevailing among the school children that the Pioneer was the mere garbage cleaner of the school. Once such attitudes were removed gradually with the performance of good environmental deeds by the Pioneers, the other problem they had to face was the management of time to strike a balance between their studies and environmental activities. There were many more problems they had to face personally after engaging in environmental activities by staying back after school time, such as transport problems, security, the need to sacrifice the time and energy of a parent or an adult, lack of time for additional studies etc.

Similarly, it was no easy task to change the firmly rooted opinions, attitudes and behavioural patterns of the people in motivating them for environmentally sensitive activities. On the other hand, the successful accomplishment of one's environmental programmes cannot be done single handed by oneself either. For that, the help and assistance of government and non governmental institutes, associations and other bodies etc. is required. Yet another sensitive and difficult problem faced by Pioneer students in obtaining such assistance was the problem of co-ordination and access to such institutes and also the lack of co-operation shown by some of the institutes. On many occasions they were compelled to make several visits to such institutes to get the information they required.

The implementation of an Environment Project for a period of one year is the most important aspect in the President's Badge process. In such instances, there have been numerous occasions when Environmental Pioneers were at the receiving end of many insults and obstacles due to lack of understanding on the part of the people around them. The reluctance to divulge certain information by the public was a practical problem faced by Environmental Pioneers. It was also a difficult task to persuade the public to adopt methods of cultivation based on our self-sufficient economic patterns, our ancient technology and food preservation systems etc. after introducing such systems to them. Although the people had taken into consideration the ease and efficiency of new technological and conservation systems alone, their understanding of its quality and value is very minimal. Similarly, it was not an easy task to find out adults with knowledge and practical experience of such ancient methods and to convince the public about them.



All these obstacles and challenges were those caused to man by another man. But, apart from all those obstacles and challenges, there were numerous obstacles and challenges caused to them by nature too. Environmental Pioneers had faced many an incident which are hard to forget ever such as those from droughts, rains as well as animals and reptiles.

### Experiences

The experience received by the President's Badge winning Environmental Pioneers from joining the Environmental Pioneer Programme conducted by the CEA and from the activities performed by them in various stages under five medals to direct their lives in an environmentally friendly way is tremendous.



Most valuable among the experiences they have received is the training they have got in working collectively towards a shared goal.

They were also given a great impetus by the Environmental Pioneer Programme in the management of the daily activities so as to maintain an effective balance between their studies and the environmental activities. In operating the Environmental Programmes, Environmental Pioneers get the opportunity to interact with different institutes on many occasions. In the process, they get many opportunities to have an understanding of the scope of functions, procedures and the nature of duties of such institutes. They will be helpful to them in many ways at various stages in their life. It is only natural that they get the opportunity to change views with various individuals in society to make their environmental functions successful. The wide knowledge and understanding of the subject of environment which they receive through such interactions is invaluable. Similarly, they receive a great deal of practical knowledge too in organization, co-ordination and implementation of environmental programmes by taking part in environmental camps and helping their teachers with organizing zonal camps etc. The participation of Environmental Pioneer children in such camps is like entering an environment school. In such gatherings they get the opportunity not only to have an understanding of the cultural events native to different areas, various environment friendly activities, projects highlighting the environmental issues presented by different students and solutions formed, but also to have a good knowledge of environmental problems, geographical location and economic patterns of the areas where camps are held. Apart from that, the knowledge gathered by Environmental Pioneers from a handful of adults who have knowledge of ancient agricultural practices unique to Sri Lanka, conservation and protection techniques etc. too is a very valuable experience.



Yet another good opportunity that those children get exposed to is the experience of the beauty of various types of forests, plant species, fauna and bird species etc. on their numerous educational tours and thus to have practical experience in such environmental aspects.





Being Environmental Pioneers themselves, they were also able to keep close contacts with Non-Governmental Organizations and to make contributions to various environmental activities. Apart from that, the knowledge of environmental conservation and technological methods practised in other countries which they gathered during tours made by them in those countries too was a very valuable and pleasant experience.



The experiences they have received by taking part in tree planting programmes and Forest Projects about the growth of plants, pest problems and treatments to such problems would never have been possible for them if they had not been Environmental Pioneers.

## Achievements

The biggest achievement made by an Environmental Pioneer is the opportunity received to be an environmentally sensitive person. Apart from that, the cultivation of good qualities such as discipline, obedience, patience, flexibility and respect for other's views is an excellent achievement they have made spiritually. The recognition he receives as a good citizen by society at large being an Environmental Pioneer and the motivation it gives him to help bring out more and more environmentally sensitive people is a blessing to an Environmental Pioneer. Similarly, the opportunity he gets to play the role of a true leader in implementing programmes while being socialized as an Environmental Pioneer amidst numerous obstacles and challenges is a fortune that has come his way. The Environmental Pioneer thus gets a good opportunity to participate in Environmental Programmes armed with a good knowledge of the subject of environment and also to become an outstanding individual even among the Heads of Government.



The ability to win the President's Medal, which is the highest an Environment Pioneer can aspire to by maintaining a balance between environmental functions and one's studies and the opportunity he gets to enter the university which is the highest aim of his studies is the ultimate result of the unwavering efforts of many a child. Apart from that, the chance given to those Environmental Pioneers who have obtained near sufficient marks for university entrance, to be awarded cut off points meant for them is a rare victory for them. They are also given opportunity to obtain environment-related job opportunities in various fields. Environmental Pioneers who put into practice their experiences in their places of work exhibiting their skills have helped such institutes to win various awards too.

In addition to all such positive outcomes, the opportunities open to Environmental Pioneer children to participate in foreign tours and foreign seminars can be regarded as a gift to them by nature for their good deeds.



## Social Mission of Environmental Pioneer President's Medal Winners

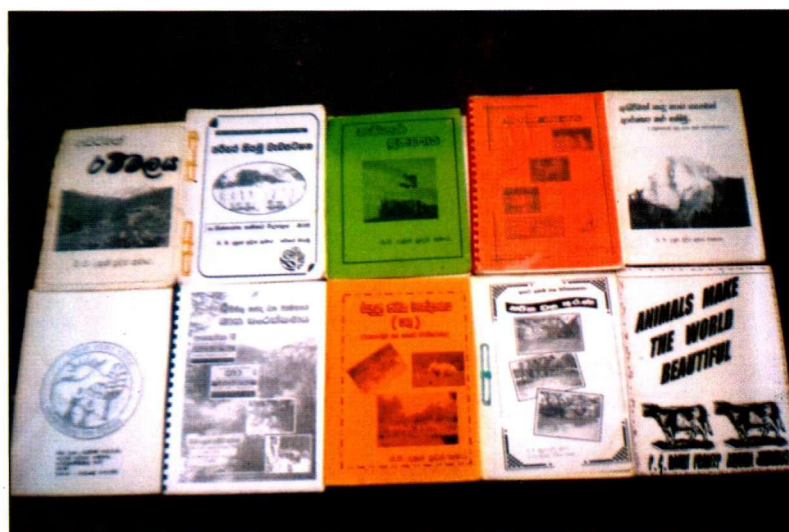
The main objective of the Environmental Pioneer Programme is to generate an environmentally sensitive group of people as legacy of posterity by effecting a change in their attitudes. Accordingly, the individual who comes into being from the activities done with great dedication and enthusiasm under the five medals, i.e. Environmental Pioneer, Green, Silver, Gold and President's Medals, is a person who is sensitive to environment. These children have done a great service to society for the sound existence of environment by using the knowledge they have gathered amidst untold obstacles and challenges and by engaging in practical activities in numerous ways.

Collectivity is the best solution to any problem. For this purpose, there should be agreement by all concerned to the matter in question. The tool employed by Environmental Pioneer President's Medal Winners to build up that collectivity is the establishment of Environment Clubs. Formation of Environment Clubs is one of the important aspects in the activities to be done in order to receive the President's Medal. By being involved in good environmental activities, good spiritual qualities such as patience, listening to others, flexibility etc. are developed in other members of those clubs as well and they too became environmentally sensitive citizens automatically. Thus, the mission performed by these children to build up a virtuous society engaged in good environmental activities is invaluable.



These children had a strong determination and tremendous dedication to realize the noble object to creating an environmentally sensitive future generation. The task performed by them to make their brother students of their own schools and in the neighbouring schools, into Environmental Pioneers is indeed very great. They provide constant guidance to new Environmental Pioneer Groups by making use of the practical and educational knowledge they have gathered from the foreign tours, awareness programmes etc. and also by engaging in practical activities.





Out of the President's Medal winning Environmental Pioneers, those who have excellent writing skills use their environmental knowledge and have brought out printed matter too such as booklets, magazines, hand bills etc. of various kinds. Such printed matter is being used in various awareness programmes too and thus the attempts on the part of these children to share their knowledge with the others become a great service done to society.

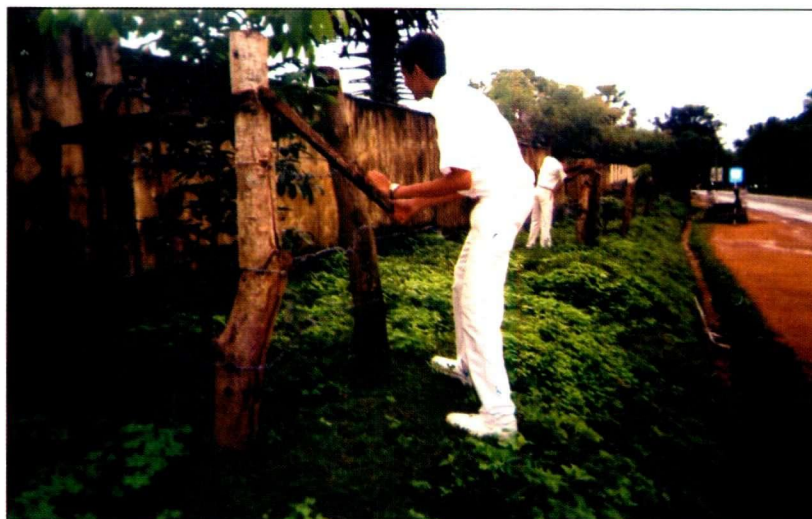


Some children have paid special attention to forest resources which are like the lifeline of natural environment and valuable flora in such forest reserves. They have also attempted to name plants in the forest reserve around their areas and to create awareness among the public to protect them.



Apart from that, the launching of various programmes to protect the natural environment which is being exposed to pollution too was a great service done by these children.

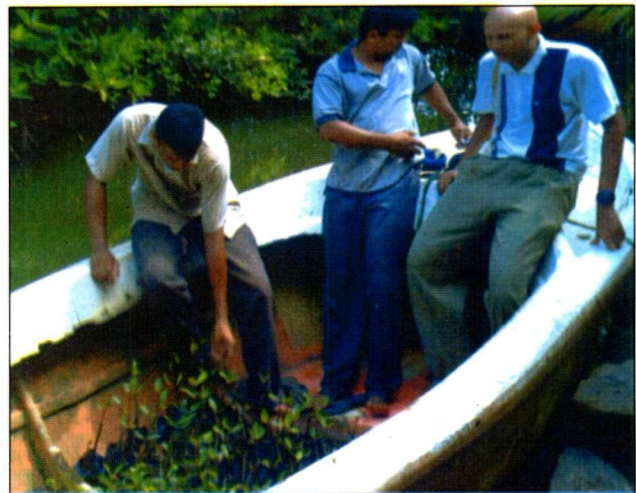
Repairs to tanks, planting trees on either side of roads and coast conservation programmes too were among those activities.



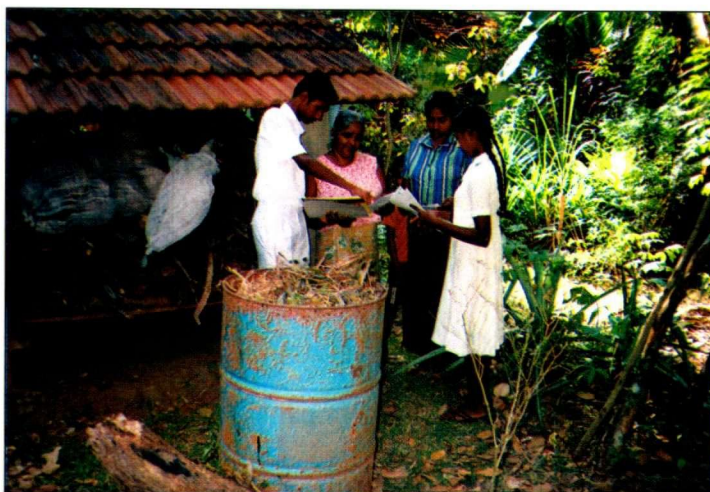




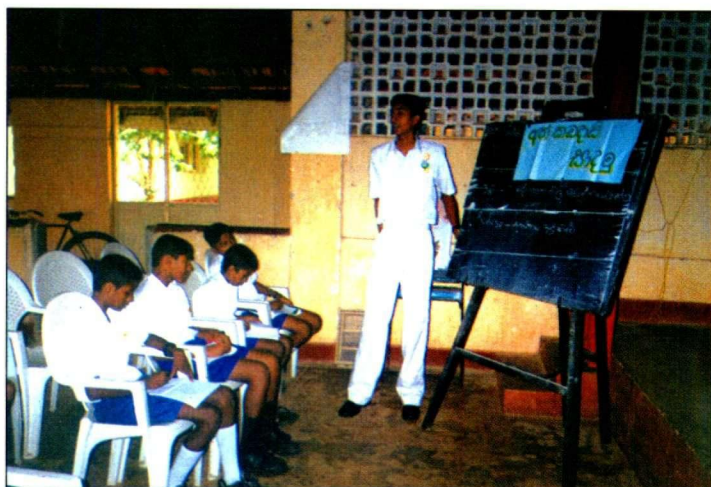
The Environmental Pioneer showed a great interest and commitment for the conservation and expansion of mangroves too. It was expected to prevent the erosion of river banks and protect the beauty of river banks. The efforts made by them to protect natural mangroves for future generation too should be appreciated.







Another noble task performed by these Environmental Pioneers is to educate the public on environmentally friendly attitudes such as the reuse and recycling of discarded items and to direct society towards it. Under this, creative people in their areas were selected and directed towards income earning activities and housewives were directed towards pot cultivation methods in premises with limited space.



Besides such activities, attempts were also made to guide school children in particular to engage in paper recycling using the knowledge gained by them in such activities; The guidance provided to school children in this manner to produce paper for the use in school and to protect the beautiful school environment is commendable.





Providing guidance to the public to start organic fertilizer production and organic agriculture is an excellent service done by Presidential Medal Winning Environmental Pioneers.



Under the instructions and guidance of these children a large number of people have taken to the production of compost and agriculture using alternative fertilizer such as poultry manure and the practice of various "Kem" systems.

It is a matter for happiness that they have been able to lead a healthy life with minimum cost and to be the owners of a strong economy.

The service rendered for the wellbeing of society by making contributions with the knowledge of environment and labour, working with government and non-governmental organizations is invaluable. Amongst such programmes were awareness programmes, tree planting campaigns, Shramadana programmes as well as soil conservation programmes. It was the benefit of their experience given to society by them as individuals sensitive to environment.





The opportunity taken to fulfill the requirements of persons who were unable to meet their basic requirements essential to a healthy life, by sacrificing their wealth and labour clearly explains the spiritual development of these children.



Environmental Pioneers did their duty well on occasions of natural disasters such as Tsunami as well. Having visited the areas affected by Tsunami, they conducted numerous educational programmes including awareness programmes to motivate adults for self-employment also apart from these programmes. Their food requirements and educational requirements such as books etc. too were provided by these children.



There were occasions when these children paid their special attention to aggressive plants too which were causing damage to environment. They showed a special interest in launching Shramadana campaigns for removing such plants after visiting such areas with their parents and teachers.





## People's views expressed through the Environmental Pioneer Programme.

"Many people come to see the Rammala Reserve from many parts of Sri Lanka. My hermitage is situated in the middle of the forest. The other monks and I see very often the medium and small sized trees on either side of the access road in the forest being felled. We have also seen the forest reserve being used by the people around it for their timber requirements too.

"After the Environment Pioneer students of Walasmulla National School took steps to display name boards on trees indicating their botanical names and ordinary names, the situation is slackening now.

I believe this situation has improved because of the people being educated by these name boards".



Incumbant of Rammala  
Forest Heritage  
Ven. Udugampola  
Chandrasiri Thero.

"I am a farmer and I used to cultivate crops using chemical fertilizer. There were economic difficulties due to high costs. In the meantime I got the opportunity to join the "Parisara Mithuro" club formed by the Environmental Pioneer students. The pioneer children of that society educated us on organic cultivation. They also made arrangements for us to get assistance from the officers of Beliatta Agrarian Services centre. At present I cultivate subsidiary crops and vegetables.

On the instructions of these children, I was able to make a bio-gas unit out of buffalo dung. Now I produce my own household food requirements and make good income by selling the excess produce. I use bio-gas for cooking purposes also. Now, I think, I am a successful farmer."



Mr. L. Gunadasa Beliatta



"I run a poultry farm as a business. But the droppings of poultry were not made any use of and they were dumped in a corner of the garden. The neighbours were badly affected by the bad smell it emanated and it caused the problem of mosquitoes and flies also. According to instructions given by the Environmental Pioneer students of Ku/Udabadalawa Sudarshana Vidyalaya, I used poultry droppings for cultivation purposes. I gave it to other cultivators too for use as a fertilizer.

"Now I am making maximum use of the space of the home garden and reap benefits by cultivating the daily requirements of vegetables. I was thereby able to improve my economy, enjoy good health and even save my time also."



**Mrs. Wasanthi, Uda-badalawa**

"I make a living out of farming. I have a good knowledge of ancient "Kem" systems as well as ancient pest controlling methods. When we were small, our father used those systems in cultivation practices. Those days, there were no crop diseases like today. But today we too have got used to pesticides and weedicides used by today's farmers, as they were easier and faster than the old inputs.

"In the mean time, a female Environmental Pioneer student of the Ferguson College, Ratnapura came to me to find information on the ancient "Kem" practice called "Paradeyya medima" and told me that she wanted to educate the farmers of the area on the importance of ancient methods. She asked for my help to educate them on the benefits of following such old methods. Then only I realized the loss caused so far for not using the knowledge I had. Actually, I am very happy now, because I can share that knowledge with the new generation. I too use ancient methods now in cultivation. I am thankful to that child for educating me."



**Mr. Gunapala, Ratnapuara.**

"I arranged my home garden in an environmentally friendly manner after being made aware of its importance by the

Environmental Pioneer students of Rajapakse Maha Vidyalaya, Weeraketiya. I started cultivating vegetables for our own daily requirements and today we are able to afford a nutritious meal out of our own produce.

I am happy to have been able to use our home garden for a useful purpose. Now we market the excess vegetables we produce without using them for our consumption only. It is a great boon to our economy too."



**Mrs. Ratnaweera, Medamulana**



## Selected best projects of Environmental Pioneer Presidential Medal Winners

### What will be the tomorrow of turtles?

**Chathurani Lokugamage, Ha/Tangalle B.V. Tangalle.**

When working with the public in society in awareness activities it was a very difficult task to change their established attitudes and behavioral patterns.

The project selected by her for the Presidential Medal is "How will be the tomorrow of Turtles?" The biggest challenge she had to face about this Project was the problem of going to the beach in the night to study the behavioural patterns of turtles and to take their photographs. But, with the collective co-operation received from the Environmental Pioneer Group she was able to complete the Project successfully and to do a great service to society by educating school children with the knowledge she has gathered in the process.



### Garbage Management

**P. G. Dasun Pradeep Kumara, Ha/Walasmulla National School.**

"Garbage Management" in and around the surrounding schools was the Project selected by student Dasun as an Environmental Pioneer. For this, bio-enclosures have been introduced for organic fertilizer production separating degradable and non-degradable matter. His ability to launch this project without any initial cost and with the contribution of labour from school children was a great achievement as well as a social mission realized by him.





### **Re-introduction of old "Kem" systems and motivation of farmers towards them.**

**G. K. Chandrani Menike,  
R/ Ferguson Higher Girls School, Ratnapura**

The re-introduction of ancient "kem" systems in agriculture and motivation of farmers to do so was the project selected by her. Accordingly, this project was launched by keeping contacts with individuals who have knowledge of such systems and enlisting their co-operation. Reaping a bountiful harvest without the use of pesticides and encouraging and motivating farmers to produce healthy food following such methods were the basic objectives of her project.



### **Conservation of the sensitive area around Madu Ganga**

**Kosala Gayan Samartunga  
G / Dharmasoka Vidyalyaya.**

The involvement of student Kosala in "The conservation of the sensitive area around Madu Ganaga" which is proposed to be named as a Ramsa Wet Land, as his project is an excellent service done not only to Sri Lanka but also to the eco-system of the entire world. In the entire Asian region, it is only in the area around Madu Ganga that the "Rathmilla" plant is to be found. Apart from that, the rain deer which was thought to be extinct for a long time, is a rare animal that can be seen in this area. Thus, the attempt made by these children to protect the Rathmilla plant and rain deer is a great service to environment.





**Motivation of farmers to do cultivation using alternate fertilizer instead of chemical fertilizer.**

**J. M. Udeshika Kumari, R/ Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.**

"Motivation of farm" Is the project undertaken by this student. As alternative fertilizer for this purpose, poultry manure is used. She has created awareness among the farmers in the village area about the benefits of cultivation using poultry manure and has motivated them to do so. The project is being implemented very successfully among the farmers and poultry farmers too earn additional income out of it. The environment which was dirty and smelling of bad odour with poultry droppings earlier is clean now and farmers have been able to reap good yields from their crops. It is the main reason for its successful implementation.



## Environmental Pioneer Programme Media news on Presidential Medal Awards

# Let us dedicate ourselves to create a proud nation by protecting environment

President - Mahinda Rajapaksha

Environment  
Day  
celebrations  
at Presidential  
Secretariat

By Anura Balasooriya

"Let us dedicate ourselves to build up a country which we all can be proud of by creating a good atmosphere where we can extend our assistance to protect environment and where all can live in unity and co-operation" This was stated by President Mahinda Rajapaksa at a function held at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday (05th) for the award of Presidential Medals to School Environmental Pioneers to mark the World Environment Day.

The President decorating a school girl with a Medal, celebrating World Environment Day.

Sixty three (63) Environmental Pioneers were presented with Presidential Medals on this day. On the occasion the President further added,-

"Today who receive these medals are a group of school children who give a valuable example to the country. We have a great responsibility to protect environment.

"I am happy about the sacrifice you make as school children against destruction caused to environment. Environment to man is like the bark to a tree. It means that our extinction cannot be prevented if environment is destroyed. Therefore, protection of environment means protection of man.



The President decorating a school girl with a Medal, celebrating World Environment Day

Photographed by : Chandrasiri Weerasinghe

"There is no point in developing the country by destroying environment. There are numerous examples to this in the world. Some of the so called developed countries in the world today are saddled with environmental problems that cannot be solved. Development while protecting environment is a big challenge we face today.

"Today, in the shops in some countries there are small bottles of oxygen for sale. People on the road and those in shops keep a bottle of oxygen in their bags.

"Some people tried to create such a situation in our country too, by filling up paddy lands,

and building on such lands. Some wanted to sell them to foreign countries. But, we are a government always committed to protect the flora and fauna of this country. We must train our children from the tender age itself to love the trees and animals in the environment.

"When some people were making plans to build a hotel complex in Sigiriya and lease out Sinharaja forest to America, we opposed it, because we know the value of the environment of this country. It is not our policy to sell the environment and make money. But our policy is to protect it and earn. How can it be

done ? We can protect our environment and market its beauty to the world and then earn foreign exchange. We must pay our attention to it.

"So far the people in the world have thought that money could be earned only by clearing the forest and filling up paddy fields. But we must propagate the idea that it is by protecting environment and not by destroying it that we can earn. It is crucial to understand the possible impact of the destruction of environment.

"Above all, we must mould our children as those who love the environment. We appreciate

your commitment and dedication to environment.

"Today, the Ministry of Environment has paid attention to find solutions to the garbage problem in the city of Colombo. We have seen on many occasions people throwing the household garbage on to the road. They are so selfish even to spoil the entire environment around them in order to keep their homes clean. We must abandon such bad habits at least now and cultivate the habit of keeping our environment clean. We must create a better environment and a society where all can live without fear and doubt."

Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, speaking on the occasion said,-

"The World Environment Day falls today, the 5th. This year's theme is, "Let us face together the challenges of global warming". Countries like ours do not face environmental problems which are as serious as those faced by developed countries. Sri Lanka is a country blessed with environmental resources.

"On the 5th of May, we become owners of a large marine system. That is the legacy of our children. We must bow down to all academics who committed themselves to get that legacy for us."

Mr. M. A. R. D. Jaythilake, Secretary to the Ministry; Mr. Karuansena Hettiarachchi, Chairman of the CEA and Mr. Pasan Gunasena, Director General of CEA also spoke on this occasion.

A group of Environmental Pioneers of Vihara Maha Devi Vidyalaya, Kiribathgoda sang the Environment Song.

("The Divaina" of 06.06.2007.)



## Protecting environment: School children to the fore

by Harischandra Guneratna

The Educational and Awareness section of the Central Environmental Authority will be conducting a pilot project in over 5000 schools in the island.

The annual jamboree of this programme where over 100,000 environmental guides are involved will be held at the National College of Education in Bingiriya from August 8-11 under the patronage of minister of Environment and natural resources Rukman Senanayake.

According to Ms. Lalitha Fonseka, deputy director general, Educational and awareness section, Central environmental Authority, the main objective of launching this project is to create a healthy and a conducive environment for all Sri Lankans.

The fifth environmental jamboree will be attended by top most 400 environmental guides, environmental teachers in schools and environmental guide commissioners.

This project which was inaugurated by a group of students from the schools in the Maligawatte area, has today evolved to 5000 schools with over 100,000 leaders islandwide could be termed as an active environmental network.

Speaking to "The Island" on the programme (07.08.2003 - The Island)

Ms.Fonseka said "The environment we live in is subjected to a global culture and the open economy has destroyed the environment and the eco-system.

Resorting to legal action is not the best remedy for this problem. The best is to reach out to the youth and induce them to change the negative attitudes of the people towards the environment to an environmentally friendly one.

In this exercise we have identified the school children as the most potent and result oriented section of the society who could carry the message to the masses" she said.

"To make this project viable we have carefully selected teachers who will be working as environmental commissioners and to assist them zonal commissioners at zonal level, where all of them will work on a voluntary basis".

For those who are enlisting themselves as environmental guides will be awarded with medals according to their performance and contribution towards protecting the environment.

The medals are 1) Environmental emblem, 2) Green medal, 3) Silver medal, 4) Gold medal, 5) President's medal.

On the previous jamboree 18 environmental guides were awarded the president's medal by President Kumaranatunga.

### 2007 World Environment Day – Environmental Pioneer Presidential Medal Award

In the task of protecting environment, be it by the public sector, private sector or by the general public, if it is to be more effective, a theoretical as well as a practical understanding of that task is a must. Having well understood this fact, the CEA with a far sighted vision conducted a programme aimed at school children under the direction of its Environment Education and Awareness Division. While an important role is played by the CEA in the task of creating awareness in the entire population towards making the environment of tomorrow more secure, it has paid special attention to the task of creating a

section of citizens which is more sensitive to environment.

Although the Journey from obtaining the Environmental Pioneer emblem to the award of the Presidential Medal passing several environmental stages is strewn with some difficulties, all that is cherished as beautiful environmental experiences in the heart of the Environmental Pioneer under the theme "Environment Protects us, Let us protect Environment", the Environmental pioneers will hold the responsibility of protecting environment today as well as tomorrow."

("The Dinamina" of 05.06.2007)

## **Future Expectations of the Environmental Pioneer Programme**

- To expand the programme in the SAARC countries.
- To allocate a specific amount of marks to students for Presidential Medal in university admission (although this is already done, a fixed rate of marks is not allocated.)
- To take action for a national and regional recognition to the programme.
- To provide necessary facilities to voluntary teachers involved in this programme, through the Ministry of Education.
- To grant promotions and other forms of recognition to teachers in charge of Pioneer Groups.
- To give priority to Pioneers when employment opportunities are provided in the socialization process.
- To entrust responsibilities of environmental protection and management to pioneer members when they mix with society as sections of youth.
- To take steps to implement the Environmental Projects presented for qualifying to the Presidential Medal by providing financial facilities.
- Out of the above mentioned expectations, all the others except for the "expansion of the Project in SAARC countries" have been realized.



## Independent Evaluation of the Environmental Pioneer Programme - 2005

While financial assistance was extended to the Environmental Pioneer Programme by the Forest Resources Management Project under the Asian Development Bank since 2001, an independent evaluation of the Programme was conducted in 2005.

The objective of the evaluation was to ascertain the impact of the Environmental Pioneer Programme on the school system of the country in creating an attitudinal change and an awareness about environmental conservation.

This evaluation was conducted by Prof. Shantha Hennayake, Mr. R. M. Ariyaratne and Mr. M. G. M. Razak by distributing a questionnaire after conducting workshops at Provincial level and by conducting interviews with partners.

### Medal winning at District Level – 2004

Province	District	No. of Medals			
		Pioneer	Green	Silver	Gold
Western	Colombo	1303	521	43	15
	Gampaha	984	275	21	52
	Kalutara	886	121	01	08
Central	Kandy	1257	88	21	-
	Matale	1500	131	-	-
	Nuwara Eliya	262	142	-	-
Southern	Galle	560	150	89	46
	Matara	1094	241	87	14
	Hambantota	558	321	86	21
Wayamba	Kurunegala	1161	335	27	12
	Puttlam	341	49	-	-
North Central	Anuradhapura	1476	84	-	-
	Polonnaruwa	240	-	-	-
Uva	Badulla	216	39	-	05
	Moneragala	162	230	94	-
Sabaragamuwa	Ratnapura	2000	371	166	04
	Kegalle	496	150	62	12
North East	Ampara	279	-	-	-
Total		14775	3248	697	189

### Award of Medals – 1999 - 2004

Year	Pioneer	Green	Silver	Gold	President's
1999	8040	930	136	-	-
2000	16950	706	103	48	-
2001	15362	1901	400	47	07
2002	13433	3528	384	32	-
2003	10213	3674	476	72	18
2004	14775	3248	697	189	37



## Teachers who provided assistance in guiding Environmental Pioneers up to the award of President's Medal

**Mrs. M. M. P. Gunawardena**

Vidyaloka Vidyalaya,  
Galle.

**Mrs. K. C. Nanayakkara**

Sujatha Balika Vidyalaya  
Matara.

**Mr. Saman Jayaratne**

Mahiyangana National School  
Mahiyangana

**Mrs. H. R. R. Peiris**

Uggalboda Maha Vidyalaya  
Kalutara.

**Mrs. S. I. Manamperi**

Walasmulla National School  
Hambantota

**Mr. V. Prsanna Weerakumara**

Akurugoda Senani Junior Vidyalaya  
Matara.

**Mrs. A. V. Sriyalatha**

Richmond Vidyalaya,  
Galle.

**Mrs. Amara Jayaratne**

Southlands Balika Vidyalaya,  
Galle.

**Mrs. S. H. Sunethra Kalyani**

Bandaranaike Vidyalaya  
Gampaha.

**Mrs. G. K. S. Jayasena**

Ferguson Girl's High School  
Ratnapura.

**Mrs. N. H. C. de Silva**

Ga/Prajapathie Gothami Vidyalaya  
Ambalangoda.

**Mrs. G. K. Geetha Kalyani Thelahera**

Udabadalawa Sudarshana M.V.  
Kurunegala.

**Mrs. W. S. Wickramasinghe**

Dharmashoka Vidyalaya  
Galle.

**Mrs. K. H. Sriyani**

Royal College,  
Monaragala.







## District Environmental Pioneer Commissioners making active contributions to the Environmental Pioneer Programme

**Mr. Susantha Devaratnayake**

Co/St. Joseph College  
Grandpass, Colombo 14.

**Mr. Dayaratna Dalawella**

Ka/Bolossagama Maha Vidyalaya  
Kalutara.

**Mr. Nimal Ananda Kanaheraarachchi**

Ma/Sri Naga National School  
Naula.

**Mr. K. W. Sunil**

Ga/Batapola Central College  
Galle.

**Mrs. H. Lilani Fernando**

"Sri Devi"  
Sri Dharmaloka Mawatha, Karaputugala.

**Mr. A. H. M. Harischandra**

Pu/Widyasagara Maha Vidyalaya  
Kaladiya

**Mr. W. A. Dahamsiri Weerakkodi**

Po/Dimbu/Leelaratne Wijesinghe Central  
College, Dimbulagala.

**Mr. R. M. Sirisena**

Ba/Meegahawela Vidyalaya  
Sorاناتota, Badulla.

**Mr. Wickramage Ariyaratne**

Ambalakanda  
Aranayake.

**Mr. Vajira Sirimanna**

Arundathi  
Thalgasmote, Weyangoda.

**Mrs. H.M.M. Abeywickrama**

Ka/Mahamaya Balika Vidyalaya,  
Kandy.

**Mr. Kudagamage Chandrarathne**

Nu/Wa/Kagalanwatta M.V.  
Nuwara Eliya

**Mr. N. V. Ratnayake**

Ham/Tangalla Balika Maha Vidyalaya  
Tangalle.

**Mr. R. M. Gunadasa Ratnayake**

401, Medagama,  
Hunupola.

**Mr. A. A. Abeynayake**

Anu/Rajanganayaya 13/14 Mahasen M.V.  
Kala Oya.

**Mrs. Rani Mahathanthila**

32, Dodamwatta Road,  
Moneragala.

**Mrs. H. N. K. Sandanayake**

R/Sumana Balika M.V.  
Ratnapura.

**Mr. A. K. Ubhayawansa**

Am/Uhana Maha Vidyalaya  
Uhana.







## President's Medal Winning Environmental Pioneers

### **Dilini Samadhini Handunnetti**

Ha / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

### **W. G. Piyumi Lakshika**

Ha / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

### **D. D. Sanath Premathilake**

Ra / Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **R. D. Dinesh Lasantha**

R/Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **J. M. Udeshika Kumari**

Ra/Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **K. V. Vikum Lakmal**

R/Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **U. S. Nimasha Chathurani**

R/Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **J. M. Samanthika Niroshini**

R/ Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **Chathurani Lokugamage**

Ha/Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

### **L. P. Sachithra Sewwandhi**

Ha/Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

### **Nirosha Harshani Gunawardena**

R/Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **T. Dulangani Nalika Peiris**

R/Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **Tharanga Subhashini Dayaratne**

R/Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **H. H. Shyamal Darshana**

R/Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **M. A. Volga Subhashini**

R/Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V.  
Balangoda

### **A. R. Purnima Chathurani**

Ga/Southlands B.V.  
Galle.







**Nayomi Nilanga Ganewatta**

Ga/Southlands B.V.

Galle.

**K. H. Rajitha Vajirani**

Ga/Southlands B.V.

Galle.

**S. W. Niluka Dilrukshi**

Ga/Southlands B.V.

Galle.

**S. Nisansala Priyangani**

Ka/Uggalbada M.V.

Kalutara.

**Chathura Bhashini Dharmasena**

Ka/Uggalbada M.V.

Kalutara.

**H. A. Ishara Madushanka**

Gam/ Bandaranaike Vidyalyaya

Gampaha.

**W. G. Keshala Gangani**

Ham/ Tangalle B.V.

Tangalle.

**P. G. Nadeesha Ishani**

Ham/ Tangalle B.V.

Tangalle.

**W. Chami Sandarekha Weerasinghe**

Ga/ Southlands B.V.

Galle.

**A. W. Buddhika Prabodhani**

Ga/ Southlands B.V.

Galle.

**Dishani Kalyani Hewawitharana**

Ga/ Southlands B.V.

Galle.

**T. Sandya Priyanthi Abeysinghe**

Ka/ Uggalbada M.V.

Kalutara.

**Dilshan P. M. David**

Shantha Anthony Vidyalyaya

Katugastota.

**R. R. M. K. M. Ratnayake**

Gam/ Bandaranaike Vidyalyaya

Gampaha.

**Shashini Ravindra Muthumala**

Ham/ Tangalle B. V.

Tangalle.

**Dilini Dalugoda**

Ham/ Tangalle B. V.

Tangalle.





**S. M. D. Pavithra Madhushani**

Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**L. Chami Nikeshala**

Ham/ Walgammulla M.V.  
Kirama

**R. B. Pavithra Krishani**

Ham/ Tangalla B.V.  
Tangalle.

**S. E. Hettihewa**

Ham/ Tangalla B.V.  
Tangalle.

**Sajee Gangani Abeysooriya**

Ham/ Tangalla B.V.  
Tangalle.

**M. A. Nelsha Hashari Munasinghe**

Ham/ Tangalla B.V.  
Tangalle.

**L. Pubudu Wasana**

Tangalle B. V.  
Tangalle.

**R. M. P. Anusha Udayanganie**

Ba/ Mahiyangana National School  
Mahiyanganaya

**J. B. A. Shashika Navodani**

Tangalle B. V.  
Tangalle.

**R. P. Yoshani Binupama**

Ham/ Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**S. L. A. Thilini Bhagya**

Ham / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**S. G. L. Ishari Nuwanthi**

Ham / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**W. L. Asha Tharanganie**

Ham / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**K. G. D. Tharanganie Mendis**

Ham / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**Nisha Aruni Liyana Arachchi**

Ham / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**P. G. Dasun Pradeep Kumara**

Ham/ Walasmulla National School  
Walasmulla.







**W. P. Nuwanthi Randima Weerasekera**

WP/Jaya/Vidyakara B.V.  
Maharagama.

**B.A. Asara Ruchirani**

WP/Jaya/Vidyakara B.V.  
Maharagama.

**Lakshika Dakshini Thilakaratne**

WP/Jaya/Vidyakara B.V.  
Maharagama.

**Dilani Harshani Vidanagamage**

WP/Pili/Piliyandala M.M.V.  
Piliyandala.

**K. L. Sachith Priyankara Liyanage**

Ga/ Richmond Vidyalaya  
Galle.

**K. Dilini Nimesha Priyawansa**

Ga/ Dharmashoka Vidyalaya  
Ambalangoda.

**Kosala Gayan Samaratunga**

Ga/Dharmashoka Vidyalaya  
Ambalangoda.

**H. G. Chandima Dilrukshi**

Mara / Senani Kanishta Vidyalaya  
Thelijjawila.

**Disna Nishanthini Mahagamage**

WP/Jaya/ Vidyakara B.V.  
Maharagama.

**Nadeesha Sajeewanie**

WP/Jaya/ Vidyakara B.V.  
Maharagama.

**Risitha Padmila Satharasinghe**

WP/Pili/Piliyandala M.M.V.  
Piliyandala.

**Mithra Shiran Ganewatta**

Co/ Ananda Vidyalaya,  
Colombo 10.

**H. W. Lakshika Surangi**

Ga / Dharmashoka Vidyalaya  
Ambalangoda.

**A. G. Arawindanath**

Ga / Dharmashoka Vidyalaya  
Ambalangoda.

**Dinusha Vithanage**

Mara / Senani Kanishta Vidyalaya  
Thelijjawila

**Thilini Chathurangi Pathirana**

Mara / Senani K. V.  
Thelijjawila.





**S. A. Madusha Niroshani**

Mara/ Senani K.V.  
Thelijjawila.

**B.W. Udeni Deepashika**

R/ Ferguson Girls' High School  
Ratnapura.

**K. K. Sajeewanie Wasana**

R/ Ferguson Girls' High School  
Ratnapura.

**M. G. Poornima Madhushani**

Ke/ Mayurapada National School  
Mawanella.

**A.M. Achala Surangi Bandara**

Ku / Udabadalawa Sudharashana M.V.  
Maspotha.

**R. G. Thakshila Umayanganie Samaraweera**

Ku / Udabadalawa Sudharashana M. V.  
Maspotha.

**D. G. Kamal Deshapriya Dayaratne**

Ku / Udabadalawa Sudharashana M. V.  
Maspotha.

**A.P.P. Navoda de Silva**

Ham / Tangalla B.V.  
Tangalla.

**G. Asara Thulasi Gunathilaka**

R / Ferguson Girls' High School  
Ratnapura.

**G. K. H. Chandrani Menike**

R/ Ferguson Girls' High School  
Ratnapura.

**P. K. Amila Sandaruwan**

Ke/ Mayurapada National School  
Mawanella.

**G. L. A. Nishantha Ramesh Maduranga**

Ku/ Udabadalawa Sri Sudharshana M.V.  
Maspotha.

**J. A. Chamila Madushani Jayasinghe**

Ku / Udabadalawa Sudharashana M.V.  
Maspotha.

**S. D. Muditha Priyadharshanie**

Ku / Udabadalawa Sudharashana M.V.  
Maspotha.

**W. A. P. Malathi Madawika Nissanka**

Ham / Tangalla B. V.  
Tangalla.

**Rajika Yasaswini Elabadagama**

Ham / Tangalla B.V.  
Tangalla.







**S. P. Renuaka**

Ham / Walgammulla M.V.  
Kirama.

**A.W.P. Ishan Chamin Rashanka**

Ham / Rajapaksha M.M.V.  
Weeraketiya.

**D. K. G. G. Chathuranga**

Ham / Rajapaksha M.M.V.  
Weeraketiya.

**G. G. Yasitha Sandaruwan**

Ham / Rajapaksha M.M.V.  
Weeraketiya.

**P. H. S. U. Kurukulasooriya**

Ham / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**Ruwanthi Sandamali Abeyrama**

Ham / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**Nadeeka Sandamali**

Ham / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**M. M. Muditha Madhubashini Silva**

Ba/ Mahiyangana National School  
Mahiyanganaya.

**Kaushika Dasun Dilraj Widanagamage**

Ham / Rajapaksha M. M. V.  
Weeraketiya.

**K. M. A. Durga Nayomi Gunathilaka**

Ham / Rajapaksha M.M.V.  
Weeraketiya.

**V. P. Pathum Madushanka**

Ham / Rajapaksha M.M.V.  
Weeraketiya.

**J. L. Harsha Nishantha**

Ham / St. Mary's National School  
Hambantota.

**Punsiri Pamali Lanka**

Ha / Tangalle B. V.  
Tangalle.

**Kumudu Maheshika**

Ha / Tangalle B. V.  
Tangalle.

**M. K. K. Saumya Bandara**

R / Buddha Jayanthi M. M. V.  
Balangoda.

**Dulan Asiri Hettiarachchi**

Ga / Vidyalyoka Vidyalaya  
Galle.





**T. D. L. Liyanage**

Ga / Vidyaloka Vidyalaya  
Galle.

**L. H. D. D. de Silva**

Ga / Vidyaloka Vidyalaya  
Galle.

**Sandun Asanka Kapuge**

Ga / Vidyaloka Vidyalaya  
Galle.

**S. Sasangi Nilusha de Silva**

Ga / Prajapathi Gothami Balika Vidyalaya  
Galle.

**Amila Anuruddhika Bandara**

Mara / Sujatha B.V.  
Matara.

**Saumya Thilini Muthumala**

Mara / Sujatha B.V.  
Matara.

**K. A. Sasika Neranjan**

Gam / Bandaranaike Vidyalaya  
Gampaha.

**H. A. Sujan Jeesantha**

Gam / Bandaranaike Vidyalaya  
Gampaha.

**G. W. Chinthaka Kumara**

Ga / Vidyaloka Vidyalaya  
Galle.

**Krishantha Nuwan Amarasinghe**

Ga / Vidyaloka Vidyalaya  
Galle.

**H. Shanika Chathurani**

Ga / Prajapathi Gothami B.V.  
Galle.

**W. H. Mahesha Nadeeshani**

Ga / Prajapathi Gothami B. V.  
Galle.

**Nisansala Sandamali Ganhewage**

Mara / Sujatha B. V.  
Matara.

**S. W. Ishani Anuruddhika**

Ga / Sangamiththa B. V.  
Galle.

**A. M. Buddhi Ramesh**

Gam / Bandaranaike Vidyalaya  
Gampaha

**Hashan Hemantha Kumara**

Gam / Bandaranaike Vidyalaya  
Gampaha







**A. M. J. S. Attanayke**

Gam / Bandaranaike Vidyalaya  
Gampaha.

**T. M. Gimhani Thakshila Priyamali**

R/ Ferguson Girls' High School  
Ratnapura.

**W. Ashani Iresha Srilal**

Ka/ Uggalbada M.V.  
Kalutara.

**M. A. Sewwandhi Subhashini Jayasinghe**

Ham / Tangalle B.V.  
Tangalle.

**R. M. P. Anusha Udayangani Rajamanthri**

Ba / Mahiyangana National School  
Mahiyanganaya.

**W. G. Chintha Nilani**

Ha Walgammulla M.V.  
Kirama.

**L. M. Shanuka Geshan**

Gam / Bandaranaike Vidyalaya  
Gampaha

**R. Udeshika Rajapaksa**

R / Ferguson Girls' High School  
Ratnapura.

**W. A. Iresha Rangani**

Ham / Tangalla B. V.  
Tangalle.

**W. G. Amali Prabodhini**

Ham / Tangalla B.V.  
Tangalle.

**K. G. Kosala Upul Kumara**

Mara / Senani K. V.  
Thelijjawila.





## Evaluation of Environmental Pioneer Teachers' Mission

**Environmental Pioneer Teachers who did their service through the Environmental Pioneer Programme to open the eyes of an environmentally sensitive future generation by imparting the required knowledge to them were felicitated as follows:-**

### Year 2003

Mr. Nilu Vijitha Ratnayake	- Tangalle Balika Vidyalaya, Tangalle.
Mrs. Kusuma Abeysinghe	- Sri Buddha Jayanthi M.M.V., Balangoda.
Mr. Dayaratne Dalawella	- Bolossagama M.V., Kalutara.
Mr. Vajira Sirimanna	- D. S. Senanayake M.M.V. Mirigama
Mr. W. Ariyaratne	- Mayurapada M.M.V., Mawanella.
Mrs. Rani Mahathanthila	- Royal College, Monaragala.
Mrs. Malani Abeywickrama	- Mahamaya Balika Vidyalaya, Kandy
Mrs. Nanda Galidawatta	- Isipathana Maha Vidyalaya, Colombo
(Former Badulla District Commissioner)	
Mrs. H. K. N. Sadanayake	- Sumana Balika Vidyalaya, Ratnapura
Mr. K. W. Sunil	- Batapola M.M.V., Galle
Mr. W. D. N. Pushpakumara	- Medagama Maha Vidyalaya, Nawamedagama, Ampara.
Mr. Susantha Devaratnayake	- St. Joseph's College, Colombo 14.
Mrs. H. S. M. Piyadasa	- Southlands Vidyalaya, Galle.
Mrs. H. M. Jayaseeli	- Vidyakara Balika Vidyalaya, Maharagama
Mrs. S. N. Perera	- Sujatha Balika Vidyalaya, Matara
Mr. A. G. Karunasena	- Katuwana National School, Katuwana, Hambantota.
Mr. J. R. Udayaratne	- Tholangamuwa M. M. V., Tholangamuwa, Kegalle.
Mr. Sunil Premalal	- Mellawagedara M.V., Mellawagedara, Gampaha
Mr. S. Medagedara	- D. B. Wijetunga National School, Muruthagahamula, Kandy.
Mrs. K. S. Menike	- Former Director/Environment Education and Awareness, Central Environmental Authority

### Year 2004

#### Teachers who contributed to make Presidential Medal Winners

Mrs. M. M. P. Gunawardena	- Ga/ Vidyaloka Vidyalaya
Mrs. Amara Jayaratne	- Ga/ Southlands Balika Vidyalaya
Mrs. K. C. Nanayakkara	- Mara / Sujatha Balika Vidyalaya
Mrs. M. H. Sunethra Kalyani	- Gam / Bandaranaike Vidyalaya
Mr. Saman Jayaratne	- Mahiyangana National School
Mrs. G. K. S. Jayasena	- Ferguson Girls' High School
Mrs. H. R. R. Peiris	- Uggalbada Maha Vidyalaya
Mrs. N. H. C. de Silva	- Ga/ Prajapathi Gothami Vidyalaya, Ambalangoda.

#### Environmental Pioneer District and Zonal Commissioners felicitated

Mr. Gunadasa Ratnayake	- Ku / Wellawa M.M.V.
Mr. A. K. Ubhayawansa	- Am / Uhana M. V.
Mr. A. H. H. Harishchandra	- Pu/ Vidyasagara M. V. Kal Adiya
Mr. Nimal Ananda Kanahera Arachchi	- Ma / Sri Naga National School.
Mrs. Malani Ganewatta (Zonal Com.)	- Piliyandala M.M.V.
Mr. D. S. S. Dodampe (Zonal Com.)	- St. Mary's National School.



Mr. Chathura Welaratne (Zonal Com.)	- R/Embi/ Ratnaloka M.V.
Mr. K. G. S. S. Pushpakumara	- Hingurukaduwa M.V., Passara
Mr. A. K. Dayan Lakshman	- Ha / Gotaimbara K.V., Ranna
Mrs. M. W. G. W. Damayanthi Gunasekera (Zonal Com.)	- Gnanodaya M.V.

#### Environmental Pioneer Teacher Felicitations

Mrs. Jeny Witharana	- Gothami Balika Vidyalaya
Mr. B. G. Premadasa	- R/ Kegalla M.V.
Mrs. T. D. A. Malani Ramyalatha	- WP/Go/Wewita Maithree M.V. Bandaragama.
Mrs. Meena Senanayake	- Monaragala Royal College
Mrs. Wimala Naranbedda	- Mayurapada M.M. V.
Mrs. Shantha Amrasinghe	- Wayamba Royal College
Mr. R. M.B.M.N.S. Ratnayake	- Ke/ Dudley Senanayake M.M.V.
Mrs. K. H. S. Ariyawansa	- Tangalle Balika V.
Mrs. L. S. Gunawardena, DM	- Kiribathgoda Vihara Maha Devi Vidyalaya
Mrs. W. S. Wickramasinghe	- Ga/ Ambalangoda Dharmashoka Vidyalaya
Mrs. I. D. Nandawathie	- Mellawagedara M.V.
Mrs. K. P. W. Rohini	- Batapola M.M.V., Galle
Mrs. Siriylatha Seneviratne	- Ga/ Richmond Vidyalaya
Mrs. Mithila Premaratne	- Mawathagama M.M.V.
Mrs. G. G. K. Sriyalatha	- Idamegama M.M.V., Galagedara
Mrs. Damayanthi Wickramasinghe	- Ku / Holy Family B.M.V.
Mrs. Neelamani Ranasinghe	- Vishaka Vidyalaya, Colombo.

#### Year 2007

Mrs. I. G. Kanthi	- Ga/ Batemulla National School
Mrs. P. W. N. Rupika	- Ga / Vidyaloka Vidyalaya
Mrs. K. B. Anula	- St. Theresa B.M.V.
Mrs. Mangalika Ranasooriya	- Ham / Polonnaruwa Model School
Mr. P. K. Magammana	- Po / Royal College
Mr. D. M. A. Bethmagedara	- Mo / Medagama National School
Mrs. P. V. V. Swarna	- Mo / Dutugemunu M. M. Vidyalaya
Mr. Sarath Perera	- Sri Dharmaloka M.M.V.
Mrs. Pathmini Disanayake	- Gam / Viharamahadevi Balika V.
Mrs. A. V. Jayaweera	- Vidyakara Balika Vidyalaya
Mrs. N. G. S. Chathurangani	- Anula Vidyalaya
Mr. Chandrasena	- Ho / Kahahena Boralugoda M.V.
Mrs. Jayani Dias	- Dharmapala Vidyalaya
Mrs. P. H. D. Priyadharshani	- Kolonnawa Somadevi B.V.

#### Environmental Pioneer teachers in charge who guided Pioneers for Presidential Medals 2006 – 2007

Mrs. S. I. Manamperi	- Ha/ Walasmulla National School
Mrs. P. K. Geetha Kalyani Thelehera	- Kuru / Udabadalawa Sudharshana M.V.
Mr. Prasanna Weerakumara	- Mara / Akurugoda Senani K.V., Thellijawila
Mrs. W. S. Wickramasinghe	- Ga/ Dharmashoka Vidyalaya, Ambalangoda
Mrs. A. V. Sriyalatha	- Ga/ Richmond Vidyalaya, Galle
Mrs. K. H. Sriyani	- Mo / Royal College





## Design Creation Assistance

### *Guidance*

**Professor Wimaladharma Abeyewickreme**

Chairman  
Central Environmental Authority

**Pasan Gunasena**

Director General  
Central Environmental Authority

### *Direction and Editing*

**Lalitha Fonseka**

Deputy Director General  
Environmental Education and Awareness

**Neil Perera**

Director  
Environmental Education and Awareness

### *Compilation*

**Inoka Abeysekera**

Divisional Environmental Officer

### *Implementation*

**Inoka Abeysekera**

Divisional Environmental Officer

**Shirani Dharmapala**

Divisional Environmental Officer

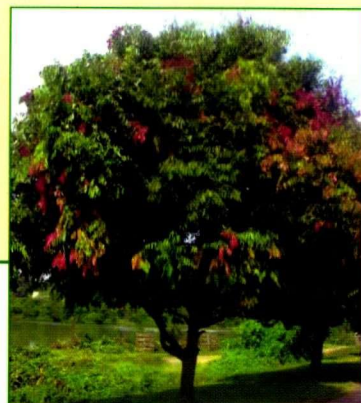
**Sujeewa Udayanganee Perera**

Environmental Education & Awareness Officer

### *Photography*

**K. C. S. Gunasekera**

Audio Visual Technician



## Environmental Code of Conduct

1. The Environmental Pioneer values and respects his mother land, indigenouness and culture.
2. The Pioneer follows an extremely frugal and simple way of life.
3. The Pioneer is truthful; honest and kind.
4. The Pioneer accepts the responsibility of working for the protection of environment.
5. The Pioneer is a true friend of everybody and everything including the plant life; treats everybody equally.
6. The Pioneer values spiritually as well as practically, the cleanliness of environment.
7. The Pioneer faces with patience the obstacles from others in the task of environmental protection.
8. The Pioneer is always happy and works for the benefit of everybody.
9. The Pioneer gives priority to environment at all times.
10. The Pioneer is the forerunner in sustainable development.